



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services



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Unemployment Program Extensions & Changes

The Arkansas Division of Workforce Services is currently reviewing the Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act of 2020 unemployment insurance benefit extension provisions and awaiting additional implementation guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor. We are also working diligently to build additional programs within our UI computer system to implement the revised federal benefits and requirements and bring relief to eligible claimants.

ADWS will share updates as soon as possible on the extensions and revision of the current programs, as well as the new Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation program. Until that time, we are asking the public to please hold questions and refrain from calling our local offices or Hotline with questions regarding the extensions or changes. Soon, claimants will receive notices with information specific to their UI claim status.

Some extensions and changes to federal UI programs will include the reinstatement of the FPUC program, extension of PUA program and PEUC program for those who qualify, some new requirements to qualify to receive benefits from the federal programs and stronger documentation requirements to ensure program integrity. Please see below for more information.

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)

- Will provide an additional \$300 weekly benefit to eligible claimants.
- A claimant must be eligible through a separate unemployment program to receive FPUC.
- Once implemented, FPUC will be available to cover weeks of unemployment starting with the week-ending January 2, 2021 and ending with the week-ending March 13, 2021.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

- Will provide additional weeks of benefits, to a maximum of 50 weeks ending with the week-ending March 13, 2021.
- Weekly certification and identification will be required.
- Claimants receiving payment on or after December 27, 2020 will be required to provide documentation of eligibility within 90 days to qualify for PUA. New claims after January 31, 2021 must provide documentation within 21 days of application.

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)

- Will provide additional weeks of benefits, to a maximum of 24 weeks, ending with week-ending March 13, 2021.

Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation (MEUC)

- Will provide \$100 in additional benefits to certain individuals with self-employment income. The additional benefit payment is targeted to individuals that received at least \$5,000 of net self-employment income in the most recent taxable year ending prior to the individual's application and will be paid on top of regular UI benefits, PEUC, and FPUC. Documentation of the individual's income is required.