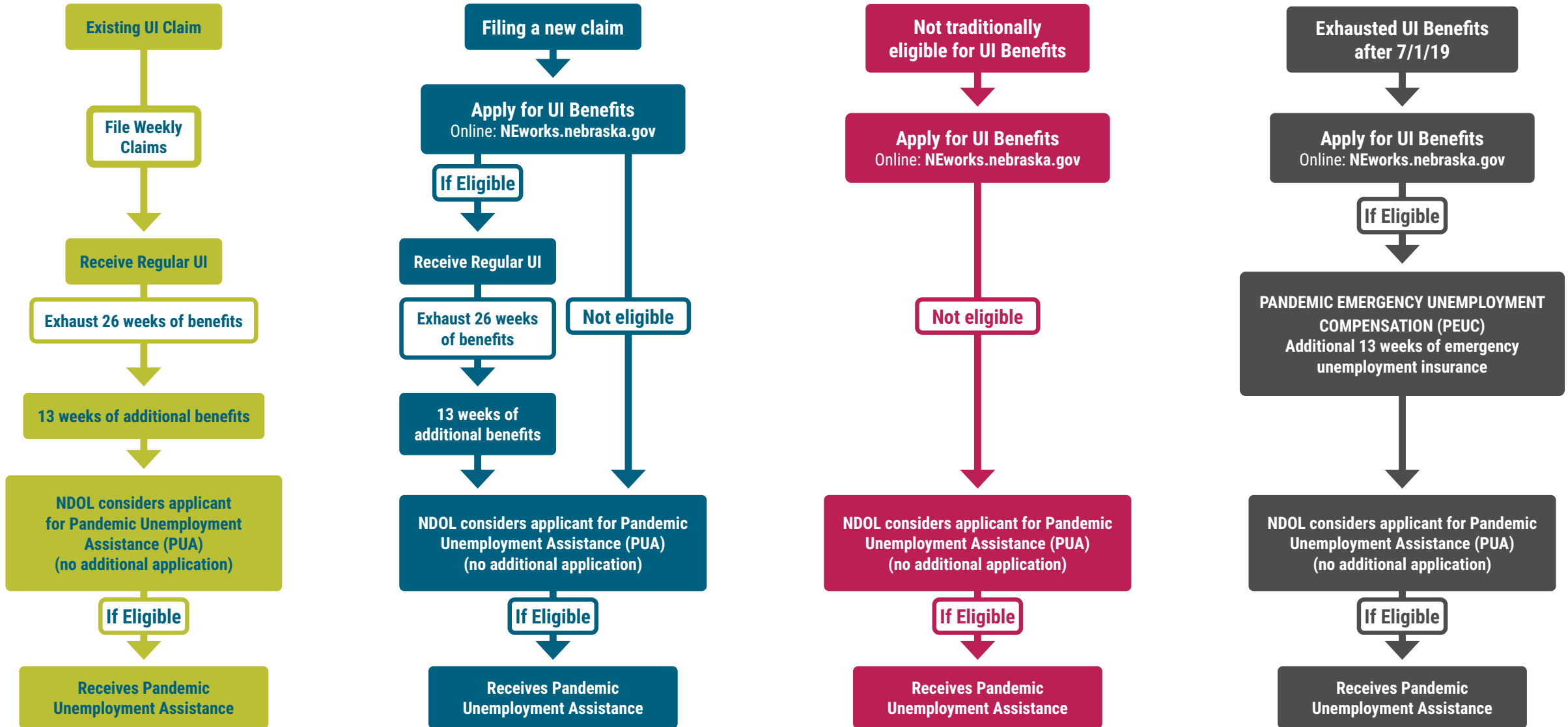


# Relief for Workers Affected by Coronavirus Act

The federal CARES Act was signed into law March 27, 2020. The Act provides enhanced Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) for Nebraskans. **All recipients of state and federal unemployment benefits receive an additional \$600 per week through July 25.** Here's what you need to know.



## MORE INFORMATION:

All Unemployment Claims in Nebraska are filed online at [NEworks.nebraska.gov](https://NEworks.nebraska.gov).

COVID-19 Resources and Information can be found on our website at [dol.nebraska.gov](https://dol.nebraska.gov).

# CARES ACT AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

On March 27, 2020, Congress passed a federal stimulus package known as the CARES Act. Within this act are three benefits that unemployed individuals may be eligible for. These benefits are outlined below and additional questions are answered throughout this document.

- **FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (FPUC)**  
This emergency benefit provides most individuals an emergency increase in traditional unemployment insurance benefits of \$600 per week through the week ending July 25, 2020.
- **PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA)**  
This emergency benefit provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits to people not otherwise eligible for regular unemployment, including the self-employed and those who have exhausted their regular and extended benefits.
- **PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (PEUC)**  
This benefit provides an additional 13 weeks of emergency unemployment insurance for people who remain unemployed after they have exhausted their traditional unemployment benefits.

## Topics in this FAQ:

### GENERAL

### FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (FPUC)

### PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA)

### PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (PEUC)

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### GENERAL

#### **If I already filed for unemployment benefits do I need to apply again?**

If you have applied for or are currently receiving unemployment benefits, you do not need to apply again to access these benefits.

**After I file a claim for unemployment benefits, how long will it take to receive benefit payments?**

If you qualify for regular benefits, the processing time for a new claim is generally 21 days; however, due to the current volume of claims, processing delays may occur. We understand this is a difficult time for you and we thank you for your patience as we work as quickly as possible to process your claim. Continue to file your weekly certifications while your claim is being processed. Back payments will be issued for all eligible weeks. The \$600 payments are being issued and apply to weeks of eligibility beginning the week ending April 4, 2020. If you have a claim in our system, there is no additional application required to receive these benefits

**When will Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and the additional 13 weeks of benefits under the PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (PEUC) be available?**

Nebraska has begun issuing PUA payments. PUA recipients will automatically receive the additional \$600 per week. Further details on the additional 13 weeks of benefits available under PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (PEUC) will be available soon.

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**FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (FPUC)**

**If I have a pending unemployment application, do I need to apply again for the additional \$600?**

No, if you are currently filing for benefits there is no additional action you need to take beyond filing your weekly claims as long as you are unemployed.

**If I am currently receiving unemployment benefits do I need to apply again for the additional \$600?**

No, there is no additional action you need to take beyond filing your weekly claims as long as you are unemployed.

**Will the additional \$600 come a different way than my regular unemployment benefit?**

No, you will receive it in the same way as you receive your traditional unemployment benefit.

**When will I start to see the additional \$600 on my unemployment?**

The \$600 payments are currently being issued for eligible weeks of unemployment starting with the week ending April 4. If you have filed a new claim and have not yet received a payment, the \$600 will be applied once you are determined eligible and start receiving your regular benefit payments. If you qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), you will receive the \$600 payments after you start receiving your PUA payments.

**Will I get an additional \$600 for weeks in the past?**

We have begun issuing payments for the week ending April 4. Per federal guidance, the \$600 does not apply to weeks of unemployment occurring prior to that.

**Will any additional income I received through these benefits impact my eligibility for unemployment benefits?**

No, federal unemployment benefits will not impact your income eligibility, as they are not considered earned income. Federal stimulus checks are also not considered earned income.

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**PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA)**

**If I am receiving unemployment benefits am I also eligible for this benefit?**

No, this benefit is only considered when an individual is determined to be ineligible for both traditional and extended unemployment.

**If I have already applied for unemployment, should I also apply for this benefit?**

No, if you are currently filing for or receiving unemployment benefits there is no additional action you need to take beyond filing your weekly claims as long as you are unemployed.

**How do I know if I should apply for traditional unemployment or pandemic unemployment?**

There is one application for benefits. If you are unemployed due to COVID-19, file a claim for unemployment insurance benefits at [NEworks.nebraska.gov](http://NEworks.nebraska.gov) to automatically be considered for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

**Where can I apply for pandemic unemployment and when will the application be available?**

File a regular unemployment insurance claim at [NEworks.nebraska.gov](http://NEworks.nebraska.gov) to automatically be considered for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

**What information will I need to provide to be able to apply for benefits?**

It is recommended you have the following information when you file:

- Your Social Security Number
- The names of all employers as they appear on your pay stub with the dates worked for all employers since October 1, 2018
- Wage information, including your tax information from 2019
- The name and local number of your union hall, if you obtain work through a union
- Your State Driver's License or Identification Card number, if you have one
- Your Alien Registration Number, if you are not a U.S. citizen but are legally authorized to work in the United States
- If you have any non-Nebraska employers, you must have an accurate mailing address and phone number for them
- If you are self employed, you may be asked to provide details regarding your business. This may occur after you file your initial application.

**If I do not provide accurate information on my application, will I have to repay benefits received?**

Yes. As with any unemployment claim, you are required to provide accurate information or face penalties including denial of benefits and repayment of benefits.

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**PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (PEUC)**

**If I have a pending unemployment application do I need to apply again for the additional 13 weeks?**

No, if you are currently filing for and receiving unemployment benefits there is no additional action you need to take beyond filing your weekly claims as long as you are unemployed.

**If I was receiving unemployment in the past and I used up all of my eligible weeks, do I need to reapply for unemployment benefits?**

More information on this benefit will be available soon.

**If I was on unemployment benefits in the past, but am currently employed, should I apply for the additional 13 weeks?**

No. This benefit provides an additional 13 weeks of emergency unemployment insurance for people who remain unemployed after they have exhausted their traditional unemployment benefits. Because you are employed, you do not qualify.