

What is Unemployment Insurance (UI) in the District?

Unemployment insurance is a temporary, supplemental wage program that pays a maximum of \$444 in weekly benefits to unemployed District workers for up to 26 weeks.

How do I apply for Unemployment Insurance?

- File at www.dcnetworks.org or call 202-724-7000
- Complete the required work search requirements when filing for unemployment benefits
 - ✓ Apply for jobs in person, by mail, phone, fax, online, or email
 - ✓ Attend a job fair
 - ✓ Talk to former co-workers or other people in similar types of jobs to let them know your availability to work or obtain information about openings
 - ✓ Contact potential employers
 - ✓ Use an employment agency or placement service
 - ✓ Participate in a workforce program or activity offered through DOES

On September 4, 2021, federal benefits under the expanded Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, will expire nationwide regardless of remaining balances. These temporary wage programs were authorized by the federal government to increase access to unemployment insurance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The following programs will be affected:

- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
- Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
- Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation (MEUC)

U.S. Department of Labor guidelines require the Office of Unemployment Compensation (OUC) to provide the following services:

- Continue to process applications and accept new PUA claims for periods of unemployment that occurred on or before the termination date of September 4, 2021
- Evaluate and determine eligibility for new claims within the approved unemployment period up to 30 days after the program ends, or until October 4, 2021
- Review and verify documentation for return-to-work reporting beginning August 30, 2021

What does this change mean for participants in federal unemployment programs?

- The federal mandate to end temporary pandemic wage assistance programs may change or affect weekly unemployment benefits. PUA, FPUC, PEUC, and MEUC are all scheduled to expire on September 4, 2021, which is the final full week for the programs.
- However, claimants may file new claims up to October 4, 2021, if the period of unemployment was before September 4, 2021. Claimants will no longer be eligible for benefits after October 4, 2021, if filing under these programs.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 is ending on September 4, 2021, but I'm still unemployed. What are the next steps?

Reapply for General Unemployment Insurance. Go to www.dcnetworks.org to apply for benefits. Your claim will be reviewed, and DOES will provide next steps on the website and portal throughout your application process.

I'm still unemployed after exhausting my 26 weeks of benefits, and the federal programs are ending. What should I do?

- Claimants can apply for Extended Benefits.
- As of right now, if eligible for EB, the last payable week for that program is the week ending September 11, 2021. You may continue to certify weekly for that program until then.

I worked while receiving the federal benefits that are about to expire. What should I do?

Reapply for General Unemployment Insurance, and always note your income. Your weekly benefit amount may change due to your income status. If you fail to report your income while filing for benefits, you may be committing unemployment insurance fraud. Learn more here: [Fraud and Improper Payment | unemployment \(dc.gov\)](http://dc.gov/fraud-and-improper-payment-unemployment).

I reapplied for unemployment insurance, and I was denied. I believe that I should receive benefits. What should I do?

- You should receive a determination letter from DOES. If you're denied benefits, you can file an appeal. The Appeals Unit of OUC represents the agency in Benefit Appeal hearings on first-level eligibility determinations for UI Benefits. Both claimants and employers have the legal right to appeal a determination with which they disagree. For more information, visit [Appeals | does \(dc.gov\)](http://dc.gov/appeals).
- Script for Staff: If a claimant's appeal is denied, please state, *"Unfortunately, there are no more wages in the base period. You're ineligible to reapply for unemployment insurance benefits until after you've reached your Benefit Year End (BYE)."*

What are the available options for those actively looking for work in the District?

The American Job Centers are now open for in-person services by appointment only. Learn more by visiting [American Job Center | does \(dc.gov\)](http://dc.gov/american-job-center).

I'm actively seeking assistance and support while searching for work. Can you help?

STAY DC is a financial assistance program for D.C. renters and housing providers who are looking for support to cover housing and utility expenses and offset the loss of income. Visit [| stay \(dc.gov\)](http://dc.gov/stay) or call 833-4-STAYDC (833-478-2932) to apply for resources that will help pay for rent, gas, water, electricity, and internet service.