

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) \$300.00 Stimulus Payment Q&A

On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed into law what is known as the “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act” or the “CARES Act” which included the FPUC program.

On December 27, 2020, the President signed federal legislation expanding CARES Act unemployment benefit programs which included extending the FPUC program but changes the amount from \$600 to \$300 per week.

FPUC will pay \$300 per week to claimants who are eligible to receive weekly unemployment insurance (UI) benefits from a state or federal program. To be eligible for this weekly \$300 stimulus payment, a claimant must be eligible to receive UI benefits from a state or federal program each week.

On March 11, 2021 the President signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act 2021 (ARPA 2021) that expands the duration of PEUC, PUA, and FPUC. It also extends the end date for these program to Sept. 4, 2021.

Q: When does the \$300 FPUC payment begin? How long will the payment be available?

A: The first payable week is the week ending January 2, 2021, and the last payable week is the week ending September 4, 2021.

Q: I thought FPUC was a \$600 payment.

A: The \$600 FPUC payment program ended July 31, 2020. The \$300 FPUC payment program was the result of new legislation signed by the President on December 27, 2020.

Q: What is the \$300 FPUC payment?

A: The \$300 FPUC payment is a federal stimulus that is added to a week of benefits. As long as a claimant is eligible to receive a week of UI benefits from a state or federal program, the \$300 will be added to their benefit payment each week they are eligible during the FPUC period.

Q: What do you mean by UI benefits from a state or federal program?

A: If you file a UI application with Alaska and are eligible for regular UI benefits, you are considered to be filing for regular state UI benefits. The CARES Act included Federal UI benefit programs for individuals who may not be eligible for regular state UI benefits. Because the goal is to try and help all unemployed or partially employed individuals who are no longer working or have had their hours reduced due to COVID-19, regardless of what program they are eligible to receive benefits from, the \$300 stimulus payment is paid in addition to those UI benefits.

Q: When will the \$300 payment be available from Alaska?

A: The Federal Government has made the \$300 payment available to claimants filing with Alaska beginning the week ending January 2, 2021 through the week ending September 4, 2021.

Q: Does the Federal Government mail the \$300 to me?

A: No. The \$300 is added to your weekly benefit amount. If you are eligible for a week of UI benefits from a state or federal program, you will receive your determined weekly benefit amount plus \$300 by direct deposit or the UI KeyBank debit card depending on the method of payment you chose when you filed your claim.

Q: What do I have to do to receive the \$300 payment each week I am unemployed or partially employed due to COVID-19?

A: First, you must have filed a UI claim and be eligible for a state or federal UI program. Second, you must file weekly certifications each week you are unemployed or partially employed. Filing a weekly certification is how you request a payment. After you file your weekly certification your eligibility for the week will be reviewed. If you are eligible for a UI benefit payment from a state or federal program for the week you will also receive the additional \$300 payment.

Q: Is this \$300 stimulus payment taxable?

A: Yes. When you filed your claim, you were asked if you wanted 10% withheld from your benefits for the IRS. Taxes will be withheld if you chose "Yes." If you chose "No," taxes will not be withheld, you will be mailed a 1099 in January 2022, and you will be responsible for paying any taxes owed when you file your tax return.

Q: If I have already filed, when should I expect to receive the \$300 payment?

A: If you are eligible for a week of UI benefits from a state or federal program, it will take up to 3 business days to receive the additional \$300 by direct deposit or by deposit onto the UI KeyBank debit card. In some circumstances a paper check may be mailed which could take up to 7 business days depending on your location.

Q: I have been filing for many weeks prior to December 27, 2020. Will I receive the \$300 for all those past weeks?

A: No. The first eligible week for the \$300 payment is the week ending January 2, 2021. If you are eligible to receive UI benefits from a state or federal program for any week for which you file between the weeks ending January 2, 2021, and September 4, 2021, you will receive the \$300 payment for each eligible week. The \$300 payment cannot be paid for any weeks prior to December 27, 2020, or after the week ending September 4, 2021, according to federal law.

Q: How do I know if I am eligible for the \$300 payment?

A: If you are eligible to receive UI benefits from a state or federal program during a week, you are eligible for the \$300 payment during that week. When you file a certification requesting benefits each week, your certification is reviewed and, if you are eligible to receive a UI benefit from a state or federal program, the \$300 will be added to your benefit payment.

Q: Will I receive the \$300 payment if I was denied UI benefits from a state or federal program during a week?

A: No. You must be eligible to receive a UI benefit payment from a state or federal program during a week to be eligible for the \$300 payment.

Q: I am working part-time or on-call because of COVID-19. Will I be eligible to receive this \$300 payment?

A: If you file for a week of UI benefits from a state or federal program you are required to report your hours and earnings during the week. If you are eligible to receive UI benefits for the week, the \$300 will be added to your determined weekly benefit amount.

Q: I was laid off, but I expect to be hired back soon after COVID-19. Will I be eligible to receive this \$300 payment?

A: If you file and are eligible to receive UI benefits from a state or federal program during a week, the \$300 will be added to your determined weekly benefit amount.

Q: If I report earnings from working part-time or on-call, will the \$300 payment be reduced?

A: No. The \$300 payment is not reduced however your state or federal UI benefit may be reduced.

Q: If I report earnings from working part-time or on-call during a week, will my state or federal UI benefit amount be reduced?

A: Yes. The UI Claimant Handbook explains this on page 10. The handbook is available online using this link: [Alaska UI Claimant Handbook](#)

Q: If my reported earnings for the week reduce my state or federal UI benefit amount to zero, will I still receive the \$300 payment?

A: No. The requirement is that you must be eligible to receive UI benefits from a state or federal program to receive the \$300 stimulus payment. It is extremely important to correctly report your earnings each week to prevent overpayments.