

## **Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) 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 PEUC program. PEUC provides up to 13 weeks of additional UI benefits to eligible individuals who have exhausted their rights to benefits for a regular state UI claim. PEUC is available beginning March 29, 2020 and ending December 26, 2020.

### **Q: When will PEUC be available?**

A: Alaska UI claim centers will be able to start taking PEUC applications beginning May 4, 2020.

### **Q: What does “exhausted rights to benefits” mean?**

A: Exhausted rights to benefits means that you have received all of the UI money that you were entitled to receive on your most current benefit year or your current benefit year has ended. For example: If you filed a regular state UI claim and were eligible to receive 20 weeks of benefits and have received all 20 weeks of benefits you are considered to have exhausted rights to benefits on the claim because your benefit balance would be zero, or if your benefit year ended, you are considered to have exhausted your rights to benefits because you no longer have an active claim.

### **Q: How do I know if I am eligible to apply for PEUC?**

A: If you have an active benefit year and have exhausted your rights to benefits for regular UI or your benefit year has ended July 6, 2019 or later, you will automatically receive a notification in the mail with instructions and a phone number to call to apply for PEUC. There also will be a press release once PEUC is available.

### **Q: What will my benefit amount be for PEUC if I am eligible?**

A: You will receive the same weekly benefit amount as you did on the benefit year claim that PEUC will be attached to. For example: If you were eligible for \$370 per week on your prior claim you will be eligible for \$370 per week if you are eligible for PEUC.

### **Q: Do I receive additional benefits for my dependents with PEUC?**

A: Yes, if you are eligible for a week of PEUC, you will also receive the same dependent allowance you received on your prior or current benefit year claim. You will not be able to add any additional dependents to PEUC.

### **Q: My regular state UI benefits exhausted in February 2020. Will I receive PEUC for past weeks?**

A: No. The first week Alaska is able to begin paying PEUC is the week ending April 4, 2020, according to federal law.

### **Q: I already filed for the week ending April 4, 2020. Will the PEUC be retroactive to the week ending April 4, 2020?**

A: Yes.

**Q: How do I receive the PEUC payment if I am eligible?**

A: By direct deposit or UI debit card. You will have the option to set up direct deposit into your checking or savings account. If you don't set up direct deposit, you will be mailed a UI debit card. You will be able to verify your method of payment when you call to apply for PEUC.

**Q: Is the PEUC payment taxable?**

A: Yes. When you apply for PEUC you will be asked if you want 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 2021, and you will be responsible for paying any taxes owed when you file your tax return.

**Q: If I am eligible for a PEUC payment during a week, will I also receive the \$600 FPUC payment?**

A: Yes.

**Q: If I am denied PEUC during a week, will I still receive the \$600 FPUC payment for that week?**

A: No. You must be eligible to receive a PEUC payment or payment from another state or federal UI program during a week to be eligible for the \$600 FPUC payment.

**Q: I believe I have exhausted my regular state UI claim. I am currently working part-time or on-call because of COVID-19. Will I be eligible to receive PEUC?**

A: Working part-time or on-call does not automatically disqualify you from receiving PEUC. You will be required to report your hours and earnings during each week you file for PEUC. Your PEUC benefit amount may be reduced.

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

A: Yes. The UI Claimant Handbook explains this on page 10. Earnings are deducted from a week of PEUC the same as a week of regular state UI. The handbook is available online using this link: [Alaska UI Claimant Handbook](#)

**Q: If my reported earnings for the week reduce my PEUC amount to zero, will I still receive the \$600 FPUC payment?**

A: No. The FPUC requirement is that you must be eligible to receive UI benefits from a state or federal program to receive the additional \$600 stimulus payment. It is extremely important to correctly report your earnings each week to prevent overpayments.

**Q: Do I have to register for work by posting a resume in ALEXsys and provide work search contacts while filing for PEUC?**

A: Yes, PEUC is a federal program with specific eligibility requirements. To be eligible for PEUC, you will be required to register for work and provide work search contacts. If you are unable to register or search for work specifically due to a COVID-19-related reason, you will need to explain your circumstances when you apply for PEUC.