

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) Q&A

On December 27, 2020, the President signed into law what is known as the “Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act” or “Continued Assistance Act” which extended the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program.

Beginning with the week ending (WE) January 2, 2021, FPUC will pay \$300 per week to claimants who are eligible to receive at least \$1 of benefits for the week under any state or federal Unemployment Insurance (UI) program, including PEUC.

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

Alaska has withdrawn from the FPUC and MEUC programs. The last payable week for these two additional program payments will be the week ending June 19, 2021.

Q: When will PEUC be available?

A: PEUC is currently available and will be until the week ending September 4, 2021.

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

A: You have to have exhausted your rights to regular UI benefits.

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: 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: 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 \$300 FPUC payment?

A: Yes.

Q: If I am denied PEUC during a week, will I still receive the \$300 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 \$300 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 \$300 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 \$300 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 AlaskaJobs 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.