

Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation Q&A

On Dec. 27, 2020, the President signed into law the Continued Assistance Act which expanded the CARES Act unemployment benefit programs and created the Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC) program. Claimants filing for regular UI, PEUC, EB, TRA, or DUA benefits and who have earned \$5,000 or more in self-employed net income in the most recent completed tax year may be found eligible to receive an additional \$100 weekly benefit in addition to their existing weekly benefit amount and the \$300 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefit.

On March 11, 2021, the President signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which extended the end date for the MEUC program to September 4, 2021.

The Department of Labor is currently working to implement this program. As more information becomes available, this page will be updated, and the Department will alert claimants by mail and through the website.

Alaska has withdrawn from the FPUC and MEUC programs.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: How long will the MEUC program pay benefits?

A: The first payable week of MEUC is the week ending January 02, 2021. The last payable week of MEUC is the week ending June 19, 2021.

Q: What are the eligibility requirements for the MEUC program?

A: A claimant must have earned \$5,000 or more in self-employed net earnings in the most recent completed tax year, and be entitled to at least \$1 of UI, PEUC, EB, TRA, or DUA benefits. This can include entitlements taken for offset or deductions.

Q: How do I apply for the MEUC program?

A: If a UI, PEUC, EB, TRA, or DUA claim has already been established and you feel that you may qualify for the MEUC program, you can send proof of your self-employed earnings to meuc@alaska.gov or fax to (907) 465-2741. Please address correspondence to *ATTN: MEUC Eligibility* and make sure your name is clearly visible on submitted documentation.

Q: What wage documentation is required to show proof of self-employed wages from the previous tax year?

A: If available, a copy of the income tax return for the most recent completed taxable year prior to your application for regular UI.

Example: If you are filing from a claim that was established in March of 2020, you would need to submit earnings documentation from the 2019 tax year.

If a copy of the tax return is unavailable (because a tax return hasn't been filed), acceptable documentation may include, but is not limited to, pay check stubs, bank receipts, business records, ledgers, contract invoices, and billing statements, but must clearly show your *net* earnings for that year.

Q: How long do I have to submit MEUC documentation?

A: Documentation may be submitted any time while the MEUC program is in effect. The program dates run from the week ending January 2, 2021, through June 19, 2021. MEUC payments may not begin if proof of wages are not submitted.