

N E W S R E L E A S E

Contact: Loree Levy
Aubrey Henry
916-654-9029

Date: June 25, 2021

News Release No.: 21-38

Employment Development Department Issues Unemployment Insurance Update

Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation Application Invites Coming June 30

SACRAMENTO—The Employment Development Department will begin inviting potentially eligible Californians to apply for the federal Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC) program starting June 30, 2021. The federal program pays an extra \$100 per week in supplemental unemployment benefits to those who earned both regular wages and more than \$5,000 in self-employment wages.

The MEUC program, created by Congress during the pandemic, is a supplemental payment for eligible claimants. It is intended to further support workers with multiple income streams including self-employment.

Starting June 30, EDD will begin sending text messages and emails with a personalized application link to the claimants who may qualify for the supplemental benefit. Paper applications will be mailed to those who are not online. Claimants will have until September 6, 2021 to apply.

MEUC payments are retroactive to December 27, 2020, and eligible claimants can receive up to a total of 36 weeks of payments. These benefits are payable for any weeks in which an individual was unemployed and met requirements--even if they have since gone back to work.

To be eligible for benefits under the MEUC program, an individual must meet all MEUC requirements under federal law. To receive MEUC benefits, a claimant must:

- Be eligible for benefits on a regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) claim, Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), or Federal-State Extended Duration (FED-ED) extension. People collecting Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) or Training Extension (TE) benefits are not eligible for the MEUC program.
- Be eligible to receive at least \$1 in unemployment benefits for each week between December 27, 2020 and September 5, 2021 the individual wishes to collect MEUC benefits.

(more)

- Apply for the MEUC program and provide documents proving net income (after all taxes and deductions) from self-employment of at least \$5,000. The personalized application links being sent to claimants will include information about how to upload documents to prove net income.

Additional information about this program is available on the [Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation](#) section of the EDD website.

Search for Work Requirements

Now that California has reopened following the pandemic, the Department [has announced](#) that on July 11, 2021, Californians receiving unemployment benefits should be looking for work to maintain their eligibility. The Department will mail individual notices to claimants in phases during July informing them of the reinstatement requirement and any specific, individual requirements that apply to them.

Different work search requirements apply for those collecting benefits on a regular claim or extension, or on a PUA claim. Individuals can determine the type of claim they are on by referring to EDD notices or visiting the new [Returning to Work webpage](#) for tips on how to identify their claim types in UI Online.

Regular unemployment insurance or extensions

Examples of reasonable efforts to search for suitable work each week for those on regular unemployment or an extension include activities such as:

- Prepare for Job Searches – Set up an account on CalJOBS, participate in reemployment services, post a profile on various job search or networking sites.
- Expand Networks – Let friends, prior employers, or community members know you are looking for work. Participate in networking, job fair events or clubs.
- Apply for Suitable Work – Apply for positions with employers reasonably expected to have suitable openings matching skills and experience, including government jobs and exams.
- Participate in Training – Engage in permissible education and training opportunities that assist in obtaining employment and do not interfere with an ability to accept suitable full-time work.

Claimants who engage in any of these activities can answer "Yes" to the question "Did you look for work?" that is asked every two weeks when certifying for benefits. A person who answers "No" will be asked further questions and may be scheduled for an interview to determine benefit eligibility for that time period.

Individuals starting new claims on or after July 11 will also be notified by mail that they must register on CalJOBS--the largest job board in California.

(more)

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

Most PUA recipients must also take action to restart their businesses or look for work starting in July. They will receive notices in the coming weeks detailing what's required. A variety of activities can meet the PUA work search requirement each week, including:

- Rebuild Businesses – Pursue new or additional clients, market the business, or research, prepare or submit a bid on a new contract.
- Expand Networks – Attend networking events, participate in relevant workshops, or expand business.
- Establish Accounts – For independent contractors who participated in an online platform, establish an account on another platform that matches the individual's qualifications.
- Participate in Training – Enroll in training or education courses that will help the business and does not interfere with an ability to return to full-time self-employment.

A person on a PUA claim who no longer wants to continue self-employment (or was previously employed but not eligible for regular UI benefits) may look for work just like a regular UI recipient. PUA claimants will not have to register on [CalJOBS](#), however doing so is recommended because it has many useful tools including job training and networking opportunities.

Information about the work search requirement, including a [useful fact sheet](#), is located at the [Returning to Work webpage](#).

###