

# N E W S R E L E A S E

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## **Employment Development Department Issues Unemployment Insurance Update, Reminds Californians That Federal Extended Benefit Programs End September 4, 2021**

SACRAMENTO—The California Employment Development Department (EDD) today reminded Californians that federal extended unemployment insurance (UI) benefit programs under the CARES Act end September 4, 2021. In addition, a significant reduction in Federal-State Extended Duration (FED-ED) benefits takes effect even earlier on August 8, 2021.

“EDD has paid billions of dollars in federal benefits to millions of Californians during this pandemic,” said EDD Director Rita Saenz. “Californians should prepare now because these federal benefits are scheduled to end September 4, 2021.”

Since the [American Rescue Plan of 2021](#) extended federal benefits under the CARES Act in March, [EDD worked to ensure](#) millions of Californians continued to receive benefits as quickly as possible. EDD has paid \$49 billion in unemployment benefits since January 2021 and \$160 billion since the pandemic began in March 2020.

Due to improving economic conditions in California, the state no longer meets the federal threshold for offering maximum FED-ED benefits of up to 20 weeks. Thus, under federal rules any amount over 13 weeks’ worth of benefits cannot be paid starting August 8. Based on these current conditions, starting August 8, FED-ED extensions will be recalculated at a maximum benefit amount of up to 13 weeks and FED-ED benefits will likely not be payable for periods of unemployment after September 4.

In general, existing federal benefits expire at 11:59 p.m. on September 4, 2021:

- **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA):** The week ending September 4 is the last payable week for PUA benefits. The expiration of the federal benefits and federal funding eliminates the program for any claims arising from unemployment (or reduced wages) after that date. For 30 days after this expiration, the Department will continue to take new applications so long as the period of unemployment benefits sought is before September 4.
- **Pandemic Unemployment Emergency Compensation (PEUC):** The week ending September 4 is the last payable week of Pandemic Unemployment Emergency Compensation (PEUC). No regular state UI claimants will be eligible for these extension of benefits for weeks of full or partial unemployment ending after September 4.

- **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC):** The week ending September 4 is the last week of unemployment for which the \$300 federal supplement to state and federal unemployment benefits will be paid under the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program.
- **Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC):** The week ending September 4 is the last week of unemployment for which the \$100 supplement will be paid to [Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation \(MEUC\) claimants](#). The [application deadline](#) for this program is September 6.

Any pending payments involving these federal programs will be processed retroactively after the September 4 deadline if a claimant is later determined eligible.

For more information on the programs that are expiring, EDD has created a [Federal Unemployment Benefits chart](#).

Full federal reimbursement for the [Work Sharing program](#) also expires September 4, 2021. Federal funding to support reimbursement for employers who do not contribute to the State's Trust Fund will also expire on September 4.

Californians receiving unemployment benefits [should be looking for suitable work](#) to maintain their eligibility. This month, the Department mailed individual notices to claimants in phases, informing them of specific, individual work search requirements based on their claim. The requirement to search for work—and the potential to be found ineligible for benefits for a failure to search—begins when claimants get these individualized notices by mail. The precise work search requirements for an individual claimant depend on state and federal law and the type of claim a person is on.

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 type in UI Online. EDD has posted fact sheets about the work search requirement in Armenian, English, Korean, Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese on the Returning to Work webpage.

California [offers many benefit programs](#) to aid people as federal benefits expire:

- Up to \$234 per person per month in food assistance—whether you are working or not— through [GetCalFresh.org](#).
- Rental assistance—including 100 percent back rent and future rent—through [HousingKey.com](#) or at the Rent Relief Call Center: 1-833-430-2122.
- Cash aid and services for families with children through the [California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids \(CalWORKs\)](#) program.
- Health insurance—for as low as \$1 per month—through [Covered California](#).

- Up to \$8,000 in tax credits through the California Earned Income Tax Credit and the Young Child Tax Credit ([CalEITC4Me](#)).

Since mid-June, EDD's outreach to claimants has increased applications to CalFresh by 85,000. EDD is continuing to explore new ways to work with other state agencies to support unemployed Californians seeking services such as food, housing, health, utility and financial assistance. Links to these programs are available through the [Additional Resources webpage](#).

EDD also offers many services to assist people looking for safe and suitable work and get training. That includes the [CalJOBS online labor exchange system](#), as well as the job search assistance, resume and interview preparation, and access to job training available through [America's Job Center of California](#) (AJCC) locations throughout the state.

CalJOBS is a no-cost virtual job center with hundreds of thousands of job postings and tools to help people find work. It is also an excellent resource where employers can post job openings and find qualified job seekers to fill their positions. CalJOBS includes over a million job listings from dozens of private job boards and recruitment sites, Fortune 1,000 companies, educational institutions, thousands of local, state and federal agencies, hundreds of healthcare organizations and many more public, private and non-profit employers.

EDD has also provided new resources to help claimants find jobs and get job training at the [Returning to Work](#) webpage.

In an effort to speed payments, on July 23, 2021 EDD began paying continued claimants under the new [conditional payment program](#). Claimants who already received at least one week of benefits in the past but have now been pending payment longer than two weeks are now paid while the Department continues to determine eligibility.

The Department is looking into ways to potentially upgrade portions of its Unemployment Benefits Data Dashboard to reflect the new conditional payment program and include other improvements. An explanatory note will be added to the dashboard to notify readers about the new program.

In addition, the dashboard will now reflect active claimants who are still within their 30 day deadline to certify for benefits. The Department confirmed 90 percent of claimants being reported on the dashboard as "waiting for claimant certification" had not certified for benefits within the required 30 days and have been inactive-- with 85 percent of these claims inactive for over 120 days.

More information about the new conditional payment program is available on the [Claim Status webpage](#).