

N E W S R E L E A S E

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## **Employment Development Department Issues Unemployment Insurance Update, Highlights Resources to Aid Claimants as Federal Benefits End**

SACRAMENTO—The Employment Development Department (EDD) continues to highlight resources available for Californians whose federal benefits [are set to end September 4, 2021](#). The U.S. Department of Labor has also confirmed that the FED-ED program continues until September 11, 2021.

Since the American Rescue Plan of 2021 extended federal benefits under the CARES Act in March, EDD has worked to ensure millions of Californians continued to receive benefits as quickly as possible. EDD has paid over \$50 billion in unemployment benefits since January 2021 and \$165 billion since the pandemic began in March 2020.

Federal unemployment benefits will soon end for many unemployed Californians, however the [American Rescue Plan](#) and [California Comeback Plan](#) have expanded other vital benefits that continue to help those eligible California families:

- Up to \$234 per person per month in food assistance via [CalFresh](#) ([GetCalFresh.org](#)) whether a person is working or not.
- Rental and utility assistance—including 100 percent rent and utilities—via Housing is Key ([HousingIsKey.com](#)) or the CA COVID-19 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) ([benefitscal.org](#)) program.
- Health insurance—free or as low as \$1 per month for workers who received unemployment benefits, through Covered California ([coveredca.com](#)).
- [Golden State Stimulus](#) payments for millions of qualified residents by filing taxes, even if not required.

Both [UI Online](#), where claimants certify for benefits, and the [Additional Resources](#) EDD webpage have information about how to apply for these vital benefits. The UI Online link has generated more than 100,000 new applications to the CalFresh program since June.

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EDD also has resources at the [Returning to Work webpage](#) to help claimants find jobs and receive job training. [CalJOBS](#), California's largest no-cost virtual job center, includes over a million job listings from over 30,000 private job boards and recruitment sites; corporations; educational institutions; local, state and federal agencies; healthcare organizations; and many more public, private and non-profit employers.

### **EDD Actions to Maximize Federal Benefits**

As of August 8, federal rules now provide 13 weeks of [FED-ED extension](#) unemployment benefits—down from 20 weeks at the height of the pandemic.

As part of EDD's effort to maximize benefits whenever possible, [most claimants whose FED-ED benefits ended August 8](#) will transition to PEUC benefits—if they have weeks available. Those claimants, if eligible, could then certify for and receive benefits under PEUC until the program expires September 4.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Labor has confirmed that [federal rules will allow those who still have FED-ED](#) weeks available to continue receiving benefits as late as 11:59 p.m. on September 11. Similarly, if a claimant's PEUC benefits end September 4—and *that person has not already had a FED-ED extension and now qualifies for one*—EDD will transfer them to FED-ED until September 11.

The week ending September 4 is the last payable week for other federal programs: Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Unemployment Emergency Compensation (PEUC), the \$300 federal supplement under the Federal Additional Compensation (PAC) (also known as Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)), and Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC). Any pending payments involving these federal programs will be processed retroactively, even after September 4, if a claimant is later determined to be eligible.

Information about which program a claimant is on is available in the [Your Claim Type section](#) of the EDD webpage.

### **Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation Application Assistance**

Following [last month's launch](#) of the [Mixed Earned Unemployment Compensation](#) (MEUC) application, EDD is processing and paying thousands of applications.

Claimants have until September 6, 2021 to apply. People with difficulty applying or who believe they are eligible to apply and do not have a personalized application link will be able to contact EDD at a dedicated MEUC telephone line. This telephone line should **NOT** be used for regular unemployment claim inquiries. The telephone number and information about the line will be available starting August 16 [on the EDD website](#).

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The MEUC program pays an additional \$100 per week to eligible individuals who earned employer-paid wages and at least \$5,000 in self-employment wages. EDD has tips for applicants providing documents to prove self-employment wages:

- Ensure that documents for the correct tax year are uploaded to prove net self-employment income over \$5,000. For claims that started in 2020, the income proof would be from tax-year 2019.
- Claimants with multiple Schedule C's to prove self-employment income must ensure they all total \$5,000 or more in net wages. For example, if one Schedule C shows \$10,000 in income and another shows an \$8,000 loss, the net income of \$2,000 would not meet the required \$5,000 minimum.
- Ensure the uploaded documents are clear and legible.

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.

### **Work Sharing Program Application Improvements for Employers**

Last month, the Employment Development Department (EDD) took [action to strengthen the state's Work Sharing program](#)—an innovative unemployment insurance program that lets employers with reduced business keep valued employees who would have been laid off during the pandemic and avoid the costs of recruiting and training new employees when conditions improve.

The Work Sharing program allows workers to collect both their pay for hours worked and unemployment benefits for reduced hours.

The federal government fully funds the program until September 4, 2021, when federal unemployment benefit programs are scheduled to expire. Employers are encouraged to apply now for this valuable program.

The Department automated application processing of Working Sharing plans and weekly certifications to make it easier for employers to participate. Businesses can now [apply for the program online](#) and submit Work Sharing plans electronically.

EDD's [Work Sharing information](#) page includes frequently asked questions and links to the new online application for employers. The [Employers: Reopening Your Business and Hiring Employees page](#) can also offer guidance and resources to help employers find qualified job candidates.

### **Work Search Requirements**

Californians receiving unemployment benefits, including those on PUA, should be looking for work to maintain their eligibility. The precise work search requirements for an individual claimant depend on state and federal law and the type of claim a person is on.

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The Department mailed individual notices to claimants last month with their specific, individual work search requirements. Individuals can determine the type of claim they are on by referring to EDD notices or visiting the new [Returning to Work](#) webpage. The webpage also includes fact sheets about the work search requirement in Armenian, English, Korean, Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.