

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (PEUC)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Who is eligible for PEUC?

You are eligible for PEUC if:

- You exhausted your regular state or federal unemployment benefits after July 1, 2019;
- You are not currently eligible for state or federal unemployment benefits; and
- You are able and available to work, except in instances where COVID-19 has made it not possible, including illness, quarantine, or government “stay at home” orders.

How do I know if I exhausted my benefits?

You have exhausted your benefits when:

1. You are not eligible for regular UI benefits because you have received the maximum amount of these benefits available to you based on your employment or wages during your base period; OR
2. Your benefit year ended on or after July 1, 2019.

How do I file for PEUC?

If you established a claim with a benefit year ending after July 1, 2019 and have either exhausted your entitlement or your benefit year has expired, then you can file for PEUC.

To file for PEUC, visit <https://does.dcnetworks.org/initialclaims/> and follow the prompts.

After you enter your Social Security Number (SSN) into the application, the system will route you to the PEUC application if you are eligible.

If you currently have an active UI claim, there is nothing for you to do other than continue [filing your weekly continued claim forms](#). You cannot apply for PEUC in advance, so you must wait for the week after your benefits are exhausted or expired to apply.

How much is the PEUC weekly benefit amount?

Your PEUC weekly benefit amount is the same as your regular UI weekly benefit amount.

Your weekly benefit amount is based on your reported earnings during the base period (the first four of the last five completed quarters). The maximum weekly benefit amount in the District of Columbia is currently \$444.

Will I receive the extra \$600 per week FPUC payment during the time that I receive my PEUC payment?

Yes. All individuals collecting any type of UI, including PEUC or PUA, will automatically receive \$600 per week from the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program, in addition to their weekly benefit amount as calculated. FPUC payments began the week ending April 4, 2020 and will end July 25, 2020. These payments will be backdated for eligible individuals.

I filed a new UI claim recently. Am I eligible for PEUC?

In general, individuals collecting regular UI are eligible for 26 weeks of benefits. If you are still unemployed after 26 weeks, you may be eligible for up to 13 additional weeks of benefits through PEUC.

I exhausted my benefits before July 1, 2019 and have not worked since then. Am I eligible for PEUC?

No. However, depending on when you last reported income, you may be eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), which provides benefits to those individuals who do not have enough wages in their base year to file a regular UI claim. Please view our PUA FAQ to find out more.

I exhausted my benefits on or after July 1, 2019 and have not worked since then. Am I eligible for PEUC?

You may be eligible for 13 weeks of PEUC. Depending on when you last reported income, you may also be eligible for PUA after your PEUC eligibility ends. PUA provides benefits to those individuals who do not have enough wages in their base year to file a regular UI claim. Please visit our PUA FAQ to find out more.

I was collecting unemployment after July 1, 2019, but then went back to work. Now I am laid-off again. How many weeks of UI am I eligible for?

The PEUC program provides eligible individuals with up to 13 additional weeks of benefits when you have exhausted your regular UI claim. You may be eligible for up to 39 total weeks of benefits, including your regular UI benefits and the PEUC benefits combined.

How long will PEUC be available?

PEUC is available beginning the week ending April 4, 2020 through December 26, 2020.