



Update from Tri-Parish Works

Monday, April 13, 2020

Difference between the **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)** and the **CARES Act**

The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance helps to support the existing State unemployment benefits system by funding an extension and eligibility for many that would not, under normal circumstances, meet eligibility for benefits. It allows Louisiana to pay a minimum of \$107 and a maximum of \$247 depending on wage verifications.

This emergency benefit provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits to qualifying individuals who are otherwise able to work and available for work within the meaning of applicable state UC law, except that they are unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable or unavailable to work due to one of the COVID-19 related reasons. These includes those people not otherwise eligible for regular unemployment, including the self-employed and those who have exhausted their regular and extended benefits.

In a number of cases where an individual will meet the below criteria to qualify for the PUA, the **approval process may take longer** than normal due to the needed enhanced eligibility review. Individuals will need to check the message center frequently and respond quickly to any requests from the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

The following are conditions that will be considered for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance if you are not typically eligible for a regular Louisiana Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Eligibility Requirements:

-) You have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and are seeking a medical diagnosis;

- J A member of your household has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- J You are providing care for a family member or a member of your household who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- J You have a child or other person in the household for which you have primary caregiving responsibility who is unable to attend school or another facility that is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency and such school or facility care is required for you to work;
- J You are unable to reach your place of employment because of a quarantine imposed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;
- J You are unable to reach the place of employment because you have been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19;
- J You were scheduled to commence employment and do not have a job or are unable to reach the job as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;
- J You have become the breadwinner or major support for a household because the head of the household has died as a direct result of COVID-19;
- J You had to quit your job as a direct result of COVID-19; or
- J Your place of employment is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Note: PUA is also generally not payable to individuals who have the ability to telework with pay or who are receiving paid sick leave or other paid leave benefits. However, individuals receiving paid sick leave or other paid leave benefits for less than their customary work week may still be eligible for PUA.

The CARES Act funding for weekly benefit of \$600 is in addition to Louisiana's Unemployment Insurance benefit or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) follow these guidelines in Louisiana:

Anyone who is qualified for at least \$1 of **State Unemployment Insurance** Benefits or the federal **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance** benefits as described above will be eligible to receive the additional \$600 benefit from the federal CARES Act. This includes self-employed and 1099 workers, who are normally excluded from receiving state benefits. It is retroactive for weeks filed back to the week-ending 4/4/2020.

Once approved for either regular State unemployment benefits and/or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance benefits, the payments for the additional benefits are beginning to be processed the week of April 13th.