

## **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)** – Available 2/2/20-12/26/20

PUA will provide up to 39 weeks of benefits to many who historically have not qualified for unemployment benefits, such as self-employed workers, 1099 tax filers, part-time workers and those who lack sufficient work history. It also applies to individuals who have exhausted their rights to state and federal regular and extended benefits.

### **Eligibility requirements**

To be eligible for PUA, the individual most NOT be eligible for regular unemployment benefits or extended unemployment benefits. Additionally, individuals must meet one of the following circumstances:

- The individual has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or is experiencing symptoms and is seeking medical diagnosis;
- A member of the individual's household has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- The individual is providing care for a family member or member of the household who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- A child or other person in the household for which the individual has primary caregiving responsibility is unable to attend school or another facility is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 emergency, and the school or care is required for the individual to work;
- The individual is unable to reach the place of employment because of a COVID-19 quarantine;
- The individual is unable to reach the place of employment because a health care professional has advised him or her to self-quarantine due to COVID-19 concerns;
- The individual was scheduled to commence employment and does not have a job or is unable to reach the job as a direct result of COVID-19;
- The individual has become the breadwinner or major support for a household because the head of the household has died as a direct result of COVID-19;
- The individual has quit his/her job as a direct result of COVID-19;
- The individual was laid off as a direct result of COVID-19;
- The individual's place of employment is closed as a direct result of COVID-19

There is no minimum income requirement for PUA.

### **What information do I need to apply?**

- (1) social security number, date of birth and driver's license or state ID number;
- (2) name, address, telephone number, and valid email address;
- (3) name, address, telephone number and dates of employment for 2019;
- (4) reason for unemployment;
- (5) dependent information (Spouse or Children), including social security number and date of birth; and

(6) banking information for direct deposit

**When can I apply?**

Pre-registration begins Friday, April 24, 2020. The application program will be available May 8, 2020 to complete the registration process.

**How much money can I expect to see?**

The benefit amount will be similar to traditional unemployment benefits plus an additional \$600 per week. PUA benefits are calculated according to earnings/wages. Total wages earned for tax year 2019 will be divided by the number of weeks worked to determine the weekly benefit amount. (Benefit may be increased based on dependent allowances). If the weekly benefit amount when calculated is less than \$189.00, the individual receives the federal minimum of \$189.

Benefits will be retroactive to the date you became eligible, which could have been as early as February 2; however, the additional \$600 per week is only available from March 29 through July 25, 2020.

The additional \$600 per week will be paid via a separate weekly payment. The first payment will include any retroactive payments for which you may be eligible, from March 29 through the present. This supplemental payment is known as Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC) and is available through July 25, 2020. It will be applied to multiple programs, including but not limited to regular unemployment benefits, Trade benefits, and SharedWork Ohio benefits.

**How long can I receive benefits?**

Benefits will be retroactive to the date you became eligible, as early as February 2, 2020. Those who are eligible can receive benefits for up to 39 weeks, but not past December 26, 2020.