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Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA): Expanded Unemployment Eligibility During the Coronavirus Emergency



Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) is a federal unemployment benefit program that expanded eligibility to workers. These benefits expired September 4, 2021. Please note that, for existing claims, you will still be eligible to receive benefits for weeks prior to September 4, if you are found eligible for a claim filed

before September 4, 2021. After September 4, 2021, no new applications will be assessed for PUA.

Through September 4, 2021, PUA provides benefits for NJ workers who are:

1. not eligible for unemployment benefits in any state, including self-employed workers (independent workers, "gig" workers)
2. otherwise able and available to work except that they are unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable or unavailable to work due to a COVID-19 qualifying reason, **and**
3. able to demonstrate labor market attachment, through earnings or an official work offer.

Additional Resources

[Read our coronavirus emergency FAQ](#)

[Additional resources during COVID-19](#)

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Additional Information for Self-Employed Workers

NEW: I was mailed a determination that I am ineligible for PUA. What should I do next?

Who is eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance?

How much can I receive?

For how long can I receive benefits?

What if I was on an approved, unpaid medical leave of absence from my employer for a qualifying COVID-19 reason and I was unable to work. Am I disqualified from receiving PUA?

What if I was receiving other paid leave benefits but the pay was less than my typical wage? Am I disqualified from receiving PUA?

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