



# Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Information is updated often and is subject to change.*

*Please check back for updates based on further guidance and clarification received from the U.S. Department of Labor.*

On December 27, 2020, President Trump signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. The guidance provides states with important information about several provisions of the law, including the extension of programs first authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) earlier this year, as well as the creation of a new UI benefit for “mixed earners.”

The law extends the **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)** program created by the CARES Act, which provides UI benefits to gig workers and others not traditionally eligible for them. Under the law, the end of the period of applicability for the PUA program extends to those weeks of unemployment ending on or before March 14, 2021. In states where the week of unemployment ends on a Sunday, the last payable week of PUA is the week ending March 14, 2021 (March 13 if weeks of unemployment end on Saturday). For individuals on PUA who have not exhausted their benefit eligibility of up to 50 weeks, the program also provides for continuing benefits for eligible individuals for weeks of unemployment through April 5, 2021. The law also strengthens documentation requirements to ensure PUA program integrity.

Additionally, the **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program (FPUC)**, which expired July 31, 2020, is reauthorized and modified to provide \$300 per week to supplement benefits for weeks of unemployment beginning after December 26, 2020, and ending on or before March 14, 2021. FPUC is not payable to any week during the gap inapplicability, that is, weeks of unemployment ending after July 31, 2020, through weeks of unemployment ending on or before December 26, 2020.

*I was receiving PUA benefits. How do I receive the additional benefits?*

Individuals previously receiving PUA benefits must file a new claim. The last day to file for a new PUA claim is March 13, 2021. Continue submitting your bi-weekly benefit request as instructed on-line at [www.kcc.ky.gov](http://www.kcc.ky.gov)

*I was receiving PEUC, how do I receive the additional benefits?*

If an individual had a benefit balance in their PEUC account the additional 11 weeks will be payable with the benefit week ending January 2, 2021. You would continue claiming benefits as usual.

Individuals that had a zero balance in their PEUC account before the week ending 12/26/2020, will need to file a new claim at [www.kcc.ky.gov](http://www.kcc.ky.gov) to receive the additional 11 weeks of benefits. \*\*The system will determine if you are eligible for an extension or a traditional unemployment claim. Continue submitting your bi-weekly benefit request as instructed on-line at [www.kcc.ky.gov](http://www.kcc.ky.gov) or by phone at 877-369-5984

*I was receiving regular unemployment insurance and now I have a zero balance. How do I get additional benefits?*

Individuals that have a zero balance in their UI account will need to file a new claim at [www.kcc.ky.gov](http://www.kcc.ky.gov) to receive the additional 11 weeks of benefits.

*I was instructed to provide proof of employment when I filed a claim for PUA. What is acceptable documentation?*

Proof of employment includes, but is not limited to, paycheck stubs, earnings and leave statements showing the employer's name and address, and W-2 forms when available.

- ▶ Proof of the planned commencement of employment includes, but is not limited to, letters offering employment, statements/affidavits by individuals (with name and contact information) verifying an offer of employment.

Proof of self-employment includes, but is not limited to, state or federal employer identification numbers, business licenses, tax returns, business receipts, and signed affidavits from persons verifying the individual's self-employment.

- ▶ Proof of the planned commencement of self-employment includes but is not limited to, business licenses, state or federal employer identification numbers, written business plans, or a lease agreement.

*What if I do not provide the required documentation for the PUA claim?*

Individuals who do not provide documentation substantiating employment/self-employment (or planned employment/self-employment) within the required timeframe are not eligible for PUA and an overpayment may be established for any benefits received.

*Are extended benefits applied retroactively?*

No. The additional 11 weeks of extended benefits approved with the Continued Assistance Act cannot be paid out before the week ending January 2, 2021.

*How long are the additional benefits available?*

The program will pay up to an additional 11 weeks for those eligible or until the program expires on March 13, 2021. Individuals with a balance and in active claiming status as of that date can continue receiving benefits until April 10, 2021.

*What if I have returned to work but I was unemployed with exhausted benefits previously because of COVID-19?*

The additional 11 weeks of extended benefits available through the Continued Assistance Act cannot be paid out before the week ending January 2, 2021. As a result, an individual who has previously exhausted and is now working is likely ineligible for the new 11-week extension of benefits.

*What if I started a new job and quit the new job because of the availability of extended unemployment benefits?*

Unemployment benefits are available to individuals who are unemployed through no fault of their own. Quitting your job will most likely make you ineligible for unemployment benefits. In this case, the office will conduct fact-finding to determine eligibility.

*Am I eligible for the additional \$300 a week benefit?*

To receive the additional \$300.00 a claimant must receive unemployment benefits from a benefit program such as regular UI, PUA, or PEUC. This program is payable starting the week ending January 2, 2021, through March 13, 2021. This payment will come separately after your weekly benefit amount has been issued.

*How can I check my current account balance?*

Log in to your account at [www.kcc.ky.gov](http://www.kcc.ky.gov) and view your "Account Summary". The account summary will display your current program and available balance.

*How can I get a copy of my 1099G for benefits I received in 2020?*

1099G statements are currently being mailed out to all claimants. They will also be placed on the summary page of a claimants account by the end of January 2021. Log in to your account at [www.kcc.ky.gov](http://www.kcc.ky.gov) and select "1099".

### *Am I eligible for the Unemployment One-Time Relief Payment Program?*

The program authorized one-time, supplemental payments:

- \$400 to claimants under any OUI program who: (a) would otherwise have qualified for 2020 FEMA Lost Wages Assistance but their weekly benefit amount was below \$100, and (b) who had an approved claim in November and December 2020 but a weekly benefit amount of less than \$176. Approximately 25,000 Kentuckians are eligible for this payment; and
  - \$1,000 to claimants under any OUI program between March 4 and Oct. 31, 2020, with verified identities and no indication of fraud, but whose claims were not yet adjudicated and paid. Approximately 16,500 Kentuckians are eligible for this payment.
- All payments for this program have been issued as of January 19, 2021. This is not an appealable action.

### *What is Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation?*

Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC) is still being programmed. Additional information will be forthcoming. The MEUC program will provide an additional \$100 per week in supplemental compensation to individuals receiving certain unemployment benefits who **provide supporting documentation** they received at least \$5,000 of net self-employment income in the most recent taxable year.

Supporting documentation would include a copy of the income tax return for the most recent taxable year ending before they applied for regular UC. If the income tax return is not available (e.g., because the individual has not yet filed it), submission of alternative documentation is permissible. Acceptable alternative documentation includes paycheck stubs, bank receipts, business records, ledgers, contracts, invoices, or billing statements.