Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) Program





What is LWA?

It is part of President Trump's executive order to extend enhanced federal unemployment benefits. LWA is a program that receives funding from the Federal Emergency Management Administration's (FEMA) Disaster Relief Fund. LWA will allow distribution of an additional \$400 weekly supplement to eligible individuals receiving UI benefits from state and federal unemployment insurance programs.

How do I qualify for LWA?

Eligibility for the LWA Program is based upon an individual's weekly benefit determination - an amount calculated by a claimant's reported wages. Individuals must have received a weekly benefit amount determination of at least \$100 to be eligible for LWA supplemental benefits. He/she must also be unemployed or partially unemployed due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ► Who is currently eligible for supplemental lost wages assistance?
 - Individuals ("claimants") currently eligible for at least \$100 per week in UI compensation from the week of August 1, 2020 from any of the below listed programs may receive supplemental lost wages payments from their state, territory or the District of Columbia.
 - Unemployment compensation, including regular State Unemployment Compensation, Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) and Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service members (UCX) Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Extended Benefits (EB) Short-Time Compensation (STC) Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA) Payments under the Self-Employment Assistance (SEA) program
- ▶ Will individuals who have already been provided their underlying benefits for weeks ending August 1, 2020 or after receive supplemental lost wages assistance retroactively?
 - Yes, supplemental lost wages assistance is payable retroactively to eligible claimants beginning with the week ending August 1, 2020. However, if an individual becomes unemployed after the week ending August 1, 2020, he or she may only receive supplemental lost wages assistance for weeks in which the individual qualifies for an underlying unemployment benefit and meets the eligibility requirements for supplemental lost wages assistance.

How much will claimants receive?

Eligible claimants in Kentucky will receive \$400 for each of the six weeks of the LWA Program. The program applies to the weeks ending Aug. 1, Aug. 8, Aug. 15, Aug. 22, Aug. 29, and Sept. 5. If a claimant received a payment for any of those weeks and had a weekly benefit amount of at least \$100, he/she will receive a \$400 payment for that week.

If I qualified for the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) Program do I qualify for LWA?

Not everyone who qualified for FPUC will receive LWA payments. Claimants must have a weekly benefit amount of at least \$100. **AND** have certified that it is COVID related.

If you have already certified, then no additional information is needed. If you certified that you were unemployed or partially unemployed as a result of the COVID pandemic you will receive the payment automatically. If you certified that you were not unemployed or partially unemployed as a result of the COVID pandemic, you will receive a determination letter indicating you are ineligible.

If you have not certified you will need to log into your claim and provide the certification. You will receive an email prompting you to log in to your claim, and the certification will appear automatically upon logging in. If you log in and do not see a certification, that means you either do not qualify monetarily or you have already provided a certification.

If you are found ineligible a determination letter will be sent and you will have the right to appeal.

LWA will be paid until fund are exhausted.

How long does LWA Program last?

FEMA announced that all states will be limited to six weeks of benefits. Kentucky received approval for all six weeks of LWA benefits.

When will I receive my payments?

Claimants who qualify for the LWA program are issued payments for all eligible weeks ending August 1 through September 5 when they are found eligible. Claimants must have a weekly benefit amount of at least \$100 AND have certified that it is COVID related.

When is the deadline to self-certify to be considered for the Lost Wages Assistance?

The last day to provide self-certification to be considered for eligibility for the Lost Wages Assistance is Oct. 16, 2020. If the self-certification screen does not pop up when you log into your account, you have already provided the certification or do not qualify monetarily.

