



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

# Unemployment Insurance Benefits CARES Act



## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE EXTENSION UNDER CARES ACT CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT

President Trump signed into law the provisions of the CARES Act on March 27, 2020.

This law makes a number of changes to the availability of unemployment insurance benefits including increasing availability to those who are self-employed or contract workers, those ineligible for state unemployment benefits and those who have exhausted benefits.

### **The CARES Act includes expansion of unemployment insurance benefits as follows:**

- Expands eligibility to individuals who historically have not been eligible for unemployment benefits such as individuals who are self-employed, contract workers or gig workers under the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program.
- Provides people with an additional \$600 per week in Pandemic Unemployment Compensation on top of the unemployment amount already offered by Arizona Unemployment benefits. This includes the newly-eligible individuals outlined above.
  - The additional Pandemic Unemployment Compensation provided is not considered “income” for purposes of Medicaid and CHIP
- Authorizes extended benefits for an additional 13 weeks for individuals who exhaust their unemployment benefits.

**NOTICE:** The CARES Act has been signed into law, and Arizona is awaiting further guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor on when the benefits will be available.

Although these additional benefits are not yet available, Arizona is now accepting applications for CARES Act benefits, and those claims will be processed as soon as DES receives additional guidance.

We are in the process of making changes to the unemployment insurance program. We will keep you updated through our website, media outlets and social media. Our customer service representatives do not have additional information at this time.

If your benefits are affected, we will notify you.

For those who were previously eligible and have already applied, please continue to file your weekly claim. For those who are self-employed, independent contractors, nonprofit employees, and gig economy workers, or requesting an extension of benefits and are not currently filing weekly claims, please submit your initial application now. [You may file a claim here](#). If you have already filed a claim, you do not need to take any action at this time. Please continue to check this website daily for updates.

**Question: Who is eligible for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program under the CARES Act?**

Answer: The CARE Act increases availability of unemployment benefits for individuals who are self-employed, independent contract workers, nonprofit employees, and gig economy workers, those ineligible for state unemployment benefits or have exhausted benefits. All individuals eligible for UI either through the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program or under existing law would also be eligible for the \$600/week in additional benefits.

**Question: If I am self-employed, do I need to file an application for unemployment?**

Answer: Yes, you will first need to file a claim online to see if you are eligible for a regular claim.

**Question: If I am receiving benefits, do I need to file an application for unemployment to receive the additional \$600 benefit payment?**

Answer: No, if you have filed an unemployment application and it is being processed or you have an existing unemployment claim, there is nothing else you need to do to receive the additional benefits. We will begin issuing those payments as they become available.

**Question: I was receiving unemployment through last week and my benefits have exhausted. I am still within my benefit year and was told I can't file again until my claim expires. Do I need to file an unemployment application to receive the additional money that was passed in legislation for the CARES Act?**

Answer: No, you do not need to file a new application. All claimants that exhausted benefits after 02/02/20, whichever is later, will be processed for the extended benefits. When the extended benefits are available, additional information will be posted on our website.

**Question: How do I know if I qualify for unemployment benefits?**

Answer: We will notify you after you file an unemployment application. We cannot determine if you qualify until we process your application.

Additional Information on other federal legislation: On Saturday, the U.S. Department of Labor issued guidance in the form of a question and answer resource to clarify key requirements in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act around the new paid sick leave mandate and expanded family and medical leave. These new provisions take effect on April 1, 2020 and expire on December 31, 2020.

Additional FAQs from the U.S. Department of Labor:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-questions>.



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# Unemployment Insurance Benefits How to Apply



## How to Apply for Unemployment Insurance Benefits

### Application Process

Applicants can apply for Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefits online at [www.AZUI.gov](http://www.AZUI.gov) anytime between 12:00am on Sunday through 6:00pm on Friday. Individuals without an Internet connection can call 1 (877) 600-2722 to submit an application telephonically.

Hard copies of the applications are also available in the documents center (UB-105 Arizona Initial Claim for Unemployment Insurance) at [www.azdes.gov](http://www.azdes.gov).

Individuals should apply as soon as possible after the last day of work.

[www.AZUI.gov](http://www.AZUI.gov) contains detailed information about various steps in the application process, information needed, frequently asked questions, and requirements to receive benefits.

### Information Needed

When submitting an application for an initial claim, individuals will need to provide their Social Security Number, mailing address, county of residence and, if available, their Driver License or state-issued ID number. In addition, they will need the following information about their employment history:

- The names, addresses, and phone numbers of all employers for the last 18 months including the correct mailing address and telephone number for the most recent employer
- The last day worked immediately prior to filing the UI claim
- Amount (before deductions) and date of any payment for severance, vacation, holiday or unused sick pay
- The name and local number of your union hall, if applicable
- Alien Registration Number, if applicable
- Copy # 4 of DD Form 214 if released from the military in the last 18 months
- SF 8 or SF 50 if employed in Federal Civilian service in the last 18 months
- Start date and monthly benefit amount of any pension (other than Social Security)

It is very important applicants are prepared with this information as they begin to file the claim.

As applicants move through the process, any eligibility issues will be identified. An individual can know his or her application is successfully submitted when reaching the end of the application, certifying the statements made on the application are true, and receiving a confirmation number.

More information about how to apply can be found in the following videos:

- [How To File An Unemployment Insurance Claim video](#)
- [How to Apply for Unemployment Benefits video](#)

## For Individuals Impacted by COVID-19

Applicants who have been impacted by COVID-19 can use the [guidance found here](#) to assist in answering the application questions.

## After the Application

Within approximately one week of filing your initial claim, applicants will receive the following information from DES in the mail:

- [A Guide to Arizona Benefits UIB-1240](#)
- [Wage Statement UB-107](#)
- [Certificate of Understanding \(Eng/Span\) UB-99Y](#)

Please print, sign, and return the Certificate of Understanding to the address or fax number listed on the form. If we need more information to process your claim, we will mail you a questionnaire to complete and send back.

## Payments

DES is doing everything possible to get Arizonans benefits as soon as possible. However, DES is experiencing an influx of claims due to COVID-19 and processing times may vary. Additionally, if there are issues with the claim, such as incomplete information, processing the claim may be delayed.

Direct deposit is available at [www.AZUI.gov](http://www.AZUI.gov). Applicants may also receive an Electronic Payment Card (EPC) issued by Bank of America (applicants who have received UI within the last 3 years or are currently receiving child support, will not receive a new EPC card). The EPC card will have a zero balance until the applicant's first benefit payment has been processed.

## Maintaining Benefits and Other Information

To maintain benefits, applicants are required to file weekly claims confirming they continue to meet the requirements to receive Unemployment Insurance. Applicants must file a claim every week he or she is unemployed, or underemployed, by visiting our online claims system at [www.AZUI.gov](http://www.AZUI.gov). The benefit week starts on a Sunday and ends on Saturday.

DES is analyzing changing state and federal guidance and updating its eligibility requirements accordingly. These requirements may continue to change as the government response to COVID-19 evolves.

Applicants are also automatically registered with Arizona's largest jobs database, Arizona Job Connection ([www.AZJobConnection.gov](http://www.AZJobConnection.gov)). By completing their registration, job seekers can create a digital resume, search for jobs, and get matched with hiring employers.

## **Additional Information and Resources**

Additional information about Arizona Unemployment Benefits can be found by visiting [www.AZUI.gov](http://www.AZUI.gov) or in the "[Guide to Arizona Benefits](#)" handbook that is available on DES' website and that applicants receive in the mail.

ARIZONA@WORK staff can provide job seekers with no-cost job assistance to help them get back to work. Learn more about the services available and view a list of jobs with immediate openings by visiting, [www.ARIZONAatWORK.com](http://www.ARIZONAatWORK.com).

Please view the [COVID-19 Unemployment Insurance Frequently Asked Questions](#) for additional information about eligibility and other information related to UI.