

N E W S R E L E A S E

Contact: Loree Levy  
Aubrey Henry  
916-654-9029

Date: December 17, 2020

News Release No.: 20-66

## Three million Californians receiving alerts about upcoming end to federal benefits

### *EDD makes electronic option available for tax reporting*

**Sacramento** – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) is alerting an estimated three million Californians that the federal unemployment benefits they are currently collecting may be ending on December 26 unless the U.S. Congress takes further action to extend them. Using the latest data available to update prior estimates, about half of these individuals are receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits while the other half are receiving Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) benefits.

The EDD estimates about 2/3 of the PEUC recipients may be eligible for the separate FED-ED extension and the EDD will be doing everything we can to make that transition automatically for those who meet eligibility requirements for a new Unemployment Insurance (UI) claim or FED-ED. The EDD is sending emails, text messages, and mailed notices to ensure claimants are aware of the expiring benefits, what EDD is doing to minimize impacts, and other resources available to assist during this difficult time.

The PUA program currently provides up to 46 weeks of benefits to help business owners, self-employed workers, independent contractors and others not usually eligible for regular UI benefits. The PEUC extension provides up to 13 additional weeks of benefits for those who run out of their up to 26 weeks of regular UI benefits.

The EDD is closely monitoring developments in Congress, where possible extensions of these programs are being discussed. Claimants are encouraged to monitor the EDD's [Federal CARES Act Provisions for Unemployment](#) webpage for updates and to learn about other financial support and services available, including:

- **CalFresh** provides monthly food assistance to people and families with low income, including those who lost their job because of the pandemic. Visit [GetCalFresh.org](#) to apply online in 10 minutes. Eligible individuals can get up to \$204 a month in food benefits.
- **CalWORKs** can provide cash and services like rental assistance and job skills training to families with children for up to 5 years. Families receive nearly \$600 in cash aid per month on average, and eligible families can receive both CalFresh and [CalWORKs](#).

(more)

- **Other Resources** are available from the State of California for basic needs, medical care or health care, housing and utilities assistance, and job search assistance among others. Refer to [COVID-19.ca.gov](https://www.covid-19.ca.gov) or visit EDD's [Additional Resources](#) webpage.

## Upgrading annual tax process with secure electronic option

The EDD continues to enhance processes to better serve our customers. Starting Friday, December 18, Californians with a UI Online account who have received UI or Disability Insurance receive messages providing them an online option to get the required 1099G form itemizing benefits received. While California does not tax EDD benefits, the federal government does.

With the IRS allowing digital 1099G information in place of a mailed paper form, the EDD is providing our claimants the option to go paperless. Doing so provides a safe, secure, and efficient alternative to sending a paper form through the mail. But individuals must elect to opt-in and provide consent by **December 27**.

Customers who have access to their UI Online accounts will receive a message in their UIO inbox that will contain information about the new Form 1099G electronic format.

- If a customer elects consent, the individual will be able to view their information electronically through an updated Form 1099G screen in January 2021.
- If a claimant does not consent to receiving their Form 1099G electronically through their UI Online Account, they will be mailed a paper copy of the form by January 31, 2021.

For more information about the annual 1099G process, visit [Form 1099G: Taxable Unemployment Compensation FAQs](#)

## Other Updates on Unemployment Claims and Backlog

- **Latest Claim Activity** - In the nine months since the COVID-19 pandemic began, a total of 17.7 million claims for various unemployment benefits to support California workers and their families have been processed by the EDD. Recently, there was a fairly large increase in regular UI claims filed, mainly reopened claims, and a small increase in PUA claims, most likely due to the recent stay-at-home orders.

The number of claims in the first week of December (341,813 in week ending December 5, 2020) is an unprecedented 600% larger than the same time last year (48,824 in week ending December 7, 2019). According to the latest data, those claims amount to a total of \$108 billion in benefits paid. The latest available unemployment claims and trends data can be found on the [EDD's online Newsroom](#).

(more)

- **Progress on Backlog** - The EDD continues to burn down the backlog of individuals waiting more than 21 days for issues to be resolved on either their Initial Claim for benefits or once they get into Continued Claim status and have already received at least one payment. The progress is updated each week on the EDD's [Unemployment Data Dashboards webpage](#).

At least half of the 683,000 claims in backlog are cases where EDD is "Waiting for Claimant Certification." The EDD continues to send messages and follow up with phone calls to ensure claimants know they must certify to their eligibility for first payment before that payment can be made, although there are always claimants who open a claim but never end up certifying for benefits because they don't end up needing them. Claimants are urged to follow the guidance available in website FAQs and online [Step by Step Instructions](#) for helpful tips on the certification process and how to avoid delays.

#####