

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Employment Development Department Issues Unemployment Insurance Update

SACRAMENTO—The Employment Development Department (EDD) is [continuing to encourage eligible Californians](#) to apply for other public benefit programs—such as help with food, rent, utilities, and health insurance—as most federal unemployment benefit programs are set to end September 4.

EDD has paid over \$56 billion in unemployment benefits since January 2021 and \$169 billion since the pandemic began in March 2020.

While the federal programs extending unemployment benefits in California expire next month, the [American Rescue Plan](#) and [California Comeback Plan](#) substantially expanded other vital benefits that continue to help eligible California families:

- Over \$234 per person per month for food via CalFresh ([GetCalFresh.org](#) or by phone at 1-877-847-3663), whether a person is working or not.
- Money for rent and utilities—including 100 percent rent and utilities—via Housing is Key ([HousingsKey.com](#) or by phone at 1-833-430-2122).
- Free or low-cost health insurance through Covered California or Medi-Cal ([CoveredCA.com](#) or by phone at 1-800-300-1506). Californians who received unemployment insurance in 2021 may be eligible for Covered California's best coverage for \$1 per month. Individuals already enrolled in Medi-Cal or a Covered California health plan should report changes in unemployment benefits because this could lower their health coverage costs.
- Cash aid for families with children (CalWORKs) through county human services agencies at [BenefitsCal.org](#) (where people can also apply for food assistance [CalFresh], and free health coverage [Medi-Cal]).
- [Golden State Stimulus](#) payments for millions of qualified residents who file taxes, even if not required. (By phone at 1-800-845-6500). Filing taxes may also qualify you for the child tax credit under the [American Rescue Plan](#).

Fact sheets with information about how to apply for these programs are available on the EDD Federal Provisions for Unemployment [webpage](#) in [Armenian](#), [English](#), [Korean](#), [Simplified Chinese](#), [Spanish](#), [Tagalog](#), [Traditional Chinese](#), and [Vietnamese](#).

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EDD provides resources to help people find jobs and get job training at the [Job Seekers: Returning to Work webpage](#). This includes [CalJOBS](#), one of California's largest job boards with more than a million job postings from over 30,000 employers. Fact sheets with additional information are available in [Armenian](#), [English](#), [Korean](#), [Simplified Chinese](#), [Spanish](#), [Tagalog](#), [Traditional Chinese](#), and [Vietnamese](#).

September 4, 2021 is the [expiration date for most federal unemployment benefits](#), including Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), the \$300 Federal Additional Compensation (PAC) (also known as Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) supplement), and Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC). September 11, 2021, is the end of the Federal-State Extended Duration (FED-ED) extension.

Claimants are receiving advanced notices about these changes, with links to the other vital benefit programs that continue. Claimants will also receive notices specific to their expiring claims in September.

The federal government does not allow benefit payments for weeks of unemployment after federal unemployment programs end, even if claimants have balances left on their claim. Any weeks of unemployment before these programs expire can still be paid retroactively, even after September 4, if a claimant is determined to be eligible for those weeks of benefits.

Regular state unemployment insurance (UI) benefits will continue to be available. In order to be eligible for these benefits, workers had to have had earned enough wages paid by an employer over the previous 18 months and had lost their job or hours through no fault of their own.

California's economy has continued to strengthen—with more than 111,000 job gains a month in the last six months. The number of people filing new, regular unemployment claims each week is down 66 percent (29,707) since April 2021 (87,672). The combination of new and reopened unemployment claims (67,224) is down 54 percent since April 2021 (145,367).

Work Sharing Program Application Improvements for Employers

EDD created an [online resource for employers](#) who are reopening business and hiring, including [a Fact Sheet](#) with information about the valuable, no-cost programs, resources and services available. That fact sheet is also available in eight languages.

(more)

EDD [took action to strengthen the state's Work Sharing program](#)—an innovative unemployment insurance program that lets employers with reduced business keep valued employees who would have been laid off during the pandemic and avoid the costs of recruiting and training new employees when conditions improve.

The Department automated application processing of Working Sharing plans and weekly certifications to make it easier for employers to participate. The federal government fully funds the program until September 4, when federal unemployment benefit programs are scheduled to expire. Employers are encouraged to [apply now](#) for this valuable program.

September 4 is also the expiration of the federal program that partially reimbursed employers who do not contribute to the state's unemployment insurance trust fund, which means those employers will resume paying the full cost of benefits paid to former employees.

[EDD's Work Sharing information webpage](#) includes frequently asked questions and links to the new online application for employers.

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