California Unemployment Benefit Programs

If you’re out of work or had your hours or wages reduced, you may be eligible to receive unemployment benefits from California’s Employment Development Department (EDD).

Start Here!

Do you have employee wages in the last 18 months? ^1

You may qualify for regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. If eligible, you can receive up to 26 weeks of benefits. Visit UI Online (portal.edd.ca.gov) to apply.

When you run out of available weeks of benefits, you might be eligible for up to 53 weeks under the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)^4 program.

Did you run out of regular UI weeks?

Yes

Has your unemployment claim expired because your benefit year ended?

A regular UI benefit year ends 12 months after the claim started.

No

Apply or reopen your claim on UI Online (portal.edd.ca.gov) and certify every two weeks for us to determine eligibility for benefit payments.

If you’re still within your benefit year, we will automatically file a PEUC extension on your claim and you will be notified by email, text, or watch your UI Online account for an update.

When you run out of weeks on a PEUC extension, you might be eligible for another 13 week extension under the Federal-State Extended Duration (FED-ED)^5 program.

Did you run out of PEUC weeks?

No

Yes

Certify every two weeks to receive benefit payments.

You must reapply for a new claim even if you are currently on an extension if you earned enough wages (edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/UI-Calculator.htm) in the last 18 months and are still unemployed or working part time.

If you’re unsure if you have enough wages as reported by an employer, log in to UI Online (portal.edd.ca.gov) and select File New Claim. We will immediately tell you that you do not have enough wages to establish a new claim, or provide instructions on how to submit a new application.

You do not need to reapply if you did not earn enough wages in the last 18 months to establish a new claim, regardless of whether you are on a regular claim, a federal extension, or PUA. Continue to certify for benefits, and we will notify you when your benefit weeks are processed.

Visit the Benefit Year End page (Bit.ly/UIBYE) for more information.

We will automatically file a FED-ED extension on your claim if your regular UI claim started on or after May 19, 2019 and you meet FED-ED specific eligibility and earning requirements. You will be notified. Watch for your UI Online account for updates.

If you’re ineligible, we will mail a notice within 5-7 days explaining why you’re ineligible with information on how the determination can be appealed. Also, we will automatically open a PUA claim for you, or re-open your PUA claim if you already had one in the past as long as you meet eligibility requirements. You will be notified. Watch your UI Online account for updates.

Visit FED-ED Extension page (Bit.ly/CA-FEDED) for more information.

No

Do you have income from being self-employed, a business owner, or an independent contractor? ^2

You may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)^3 if you were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. If eligible, you can receive up to 86 weeks of PUA benefits. Visit the PUA page (Bit.ly/PUAEDD) for more information and how to apply.

Did you run out of PEUC weeks?

Yes

No

You do not need to reapply if you did not earn enough wages in the last 18 months to establish a new claim, regardless of whether you are on a regular claim, a federal extension, or PUA. Continue to certify for benefits, and we will notify you when your benefit weeks are processed.

Visit the Benefit Year End page (Bit.ly/UIBYE) for more information.

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Visit FED-ED Extension page (Bit.ly/CA-FEDED) for more information.

^1 Employee wages are usually reported on a W-2 tax form. Even if you have not received a W2 tax form from your employer, you may still have employee wages; your employer may have misclassified you as an independent contractor. If you believe you may have been misclassified and have employee wages, contact EDD and request a wage audit.

^2 This type of income is usually reported on a 1099 tax form. Just because your income is reported on a 1099 tax form does not mean you do not have employee wages; your employer may have misclassified you as an independent contractor. If you believe you may have been misclassified and have employee wages, contact EDD and request a wage audit.

^3 The earliest a new PUA claim can begin is December 6, 2020, and is available through September 4, 2021.

^4 The earliest a PEUC extension can begin is March 29, 2020 and is available through September 4, 2021.

^5 The earliest a FED-ED extension can begin is May 10, 2020, and is available through September 4, 2021. For weeks of unemployment between May 20, 2020 and August 7, 2021, you may be eligible for up to 20 weeks of benefits.