



ASSEMBLYWOMAN • DISTRICT 80

LORENA
Gonzalez ★

PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE



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Self-Employed Workers Can Access New Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program Beginning Tuesday

A new federal program is launching soon to help Californians who are out of business or have seen their services significantly reduced as a result of the coronavirus pandemic but are not usually eligible for regular state Unemployment Insurance benefits, including business owners, the self-employed, independent contractors, individuals who have limited work history and others. It's called the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program and you can apply online starting [Tuesday, April 28](#) .

In this email:

- **What is Pandemic Unemployment Assistance? Who is eligible?**
- **How to apply for PUA**
- **How much will you receive?**

What is Pandemic Unemployment Assistance? Who is eligible?

As part of the federal [CARES Act](#) , the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits to people who are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance. To receive PUA, you must be able and available to work but unemployed due to COVID-19-related reasons. To see what qualifies as a COVID-19 reason, click [here](#) .

PUA is available:

- If you are self-employed or an independent contractor,
- If you have exhausted your regular and extended unemployment insurance benefits, or
- If you have insufficient work history to qualify for regular unemployment insurance.

For instance, if you are a hair stylist and an independent contractor, and your place of employment was closed as a result of COVID-19, you could apply for PUA benefits.

How to apply for PUA

The PUA application is not available yet. California's Employment Development Department expects to begin receiving applications for PUA on **Tuesday, April 28**. You will be able to apply on [UI Online](#), the same system used for regular unemployment insurance benefits. The first payments are expected to go out within 2 days if you have an existing EDD debit card (and there are no issues that require a further review of eligibility), and within 4 to 7 days when new debit cards and checks are mailed.

How much will you receive?

If you qualify for PUA, you will initially receive at least \$ 167 per week through PUA. PUA payments will be retroactive to weeks starting on or after February 2, 2020, depending on your last day of work due to COVID-19.

After the initial payments, you may see your weekly benefit increase up to \$ 450, depending on proof of prior earnings. If your weekly benefit amount is increased, you will receive a retroactive payment to make up the difference you should have received back to when you stopped work.

Another program called Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC) will provide an additional \$ 600 per week in addition to your PUA check (this program is also available to people receiving regular UI benefits). The extra \$ 600 per week will also be paid on a retroactive basis, but only for weeks between March 29th and July 25, 2020.

If you think you qualify for PUA, remember to apply online starting April 28.

My office remains open to serve constituents of Mid-City and South San Diego County and provide updates on important resources.

To speak to someone over the phone, contact my District Office during regular business hours, Monday-Friday: (619) 338-8090. To reach someone by email, contact [Assemblymember.Gonzalez @ assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Gonzalez@assembly.ca.gov)

You can find the latest information on [a variety of available local and state resources on my website](#).

Stay safe. We will get through this together.

Self-Employed Workers Will Have Access to a New Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program Starting Tuesday

A new federal program launching will soon help Californians who are out of business or have seen their services reduced significantly due to the coronavirus pandemic. This program is eligible for people who do not regularly qualify for state unemployment insurance, including employers, self-employed workers, independent contractors, individuals with limited work experience, and others. This program is called Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PÚA for its centuries in English) and you can apply starting [Tuesday, April 28](#).

In this email:

- **What is Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)? Who is eligible?**
- **How can I apply to PUA?**
- **How much can you receive?**

What is Pandemic Unemployment Assistance? Who is eligible?

As part of the federal [CARES Act](#), the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PÚA) program will provide up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits to people who are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance. To receive PUA, you have to be able and available to work but you cannot due to reasons related to COVID-19. To see if you qualify for COVID-19 related reasons, click [here](#).

PUA is available:

- If you are self-employed or an independent contractor,
- If you have exhausted your regular or extended unemployment insurance benefits, or

- If you don't have enough work experience to qualify for regular unemployment insurance.

For example, if you are a stylist and an independent contractor, and your place of employment is closed due to COVID-19, you can apply for PÚA benefits.

How to apply for PÚA

The PÚA application is not available. The Department of Unemployment (EDD for its centuries in English) expects to begin receiving applications for PÚA on **Tuesday, April 28**. You can apply at [UI Online](#) , which is the same system used to apply for unemployment insurance benefits. They expect the first payments to go out within 2 days if you have an EDD debit letter (and there are no hassles that require further review for eligibility) and within 4-7 days for new debit letters and mailed checks.

How much are you going to receive?

If you qualify for PÚA, you will receive at least \$ 167 per week at the start. PÚA payments are retroactive to weeks beginning on or after February 2, 2020, depending on your last day of work due to COVID-19.

After the start payments, you will see your weekly benefit increase to the amount of \$ 450, depending on proof of previous income. If the weekly benefit amount goes up, you will receive a retroactive payment to make up the difference from what you would have received when you stopped working.

Another program called Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC) will give an additional \$ 600 per week to your PÚA check (this program is also eligible for people receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits). The additional \$ 600 per week will be paid retroactively, but only for the weeks between March 29 to July 25, 2020.

If you think you qualify for PUA , you agree to apply on line starting on 28 April .

To speak to someone on the phone, call my District Office during regular business hours, Monday-Friday: (619) 338-8090. To reach someone via email, contact [Assemblymember.Gonzalez @ assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Gonzalez@assembly.ca.gov)

You can find the latest information on various available state and local resources by visiting my website.

Take care. Together we will overcome this.

Sincerely,



Lorena Gonzalez
Assemblymember, 80th District

[visit MY WEBSITE](#)

[send ME AN EMAIL](#)

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