

## Early Childhood Workforce Unemployment Guide April 1, 2020 – July 1, 2020

### Re: Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) - Claiming Unemployment Insurance (UI)

**Online:** Log in to the New York Department of Labor website at <https://www.labor.ny.gov/home/>  
NY Department of Labor FAQ: <https://www.labor.ny.gov/ui/pdfs/ui-covid-faq.pdf>

#### To file an Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claim online:

<https://applications.labor.ny.gov/IndividualReg/>

#### IF YOU ARE FILING A NEW UI CLAIM: WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Check your eligibility for PUA

[labor.ny.gov/ui/pdfs/pandemic-unemployment-assistance.pdf](https://www.labor.ny.gov/ui/pdfs/pandemic-unemployment-assistance.pdf)

If you believe you are eligible, apply online at  
[labor.ny.gov/signin](https://www.labor.ny.gov/signin).

**You may also call 1-888-209-8124 if you do not  
have access to a computer.**

**By Phone:** call the Telephone Claims Center at  
(888) 209-8124

TTY/TTD users call (800) 662-1220

#### What you need to apply:

- your last employer's contact information
- the last day you worked for them
- the reason you are no longer working for them
- if you are receiving a pension or other income
- if you are able and available to accept full-time work
- designation that you have the legal right to work in the United States

#### Relief for Workers Affected by Coronavirus Act

#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CARES ACT

#### IF YOU ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR UI BENEFITS:

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

Do nothing except continue to certify weekly. Your benefits will automatically be updated. Please do not call, it will only make it difficult for others to reach an agent.

#### YOU MAY QUALIFY TO RECEIVE:

- ✓ 39 weeks of PUA benefits.
- ✓ **An additional \$600/week until 7/31/2020.**  
(Payments begin 4/5/2020)
- ✓ **Corona Virus update:** New York is providing updates on unemployment Insurance changed related to COVID-19:

## Am I eligible?

In March 2020, new federal law greatly expanded unemployment insurance. Many workers who were not previously covered are now eligible. You may now be eligible if any of the following are true:

- Your employer permanently or temporarily laid you off due to coronavirus measures
- Your employer reduced your work hours due to coronavirus measures
- You are self-employed and have lost income due to coronavirus measures
- You're quarantined and can't work due to coronavirus
- You're unable to work due to a risk of exposure to coronavirus
- You can't work because you're caring for a family member due to coronavirus

In addition to expanding eligibility, new federal law also:

- *Increases the weekly benefit amount that states currently provide by \$ 600, until July 31, 2020*
- Provides an additional 13 weeks of benefits for people who are still unemployed after their state benefit period runs out

## FAQ's: Am I eligible for Unemployment Insurance?

### My employer has reduced my hours because of COVID-19.

- You may be eligible for partial unemployment <https://www.labor.ny.gov/ui/dande/sharedwork1.shtm>

### My employer has closed down temporarily.

- **Yes**, you should file a claim if you have been laid off from your job.

### I cannot work because my child's school or day care facility has closed due to COVID-19 and I need to stay home to take care of my child. Am I eligible for Unemployment Insurance?

- **Yes**

### Will I be taxed on unemployment income?

- **Yes**, unemployment compensation, is subject to taxation.

### Will the additional \$600 weekly unemployment supplement affect eligibility for Medicaid or State Children's Health Insurance Programs?

- **No**

## Who is covered under the CARES ACT?

The CARES Act provides Pandemic Unemployment Assistance to any individuals below who provide self-certification that they are otherwise unemployed, partially unemployed or unavailable to work and are not entitled to any other unemployment compensation because:

- the individual has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis,
- a member of the individual's household has been diagnosed with COVID-19,
- the individual is providing care for a family member or a member of the individual's household who has been diagnosed with COVID-19,
- a child or other person in the household for which the individual has primary caregiving responsibility is unable to attend school or another facility that is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency and such school or facility care is required for the individual to work,
- the individual is unable to reach the place of employment because of a quarantine imposed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency,
- the individual is unable to reach the place of employment because the individual has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19,
- the individual was scheduled to commence employment and does not have a job or is unable to reach the job as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency,
- the individual has become the breadwinner or major support for a household because the head of the household has died as a direct result of COVID-19,
- the individual has to quit his or her job as a direct result of COVID-19,
- the individual's place of employment is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency; or
- the individual meets any additional criteria established by the Secretary for unemployment assistance under this section, or
- **is self-employed, is seeking part-time employment, does not have sufficient work history, or otherwise would not qualify for regular unemployment or extended benefits under State or Federal law, and does not include:**
- an individual who has the ability to telework with pay, or an individual who is receiving paid sick leave or other paid leave benefits, regardless of whether the individual meets a qualification described above.

**If you are a Head Start Employee:** The Office of Head Start has provided guidance to all Head Start grantees that no employee should be denied wages or benefits. If you have been laid off, furloughed, or denied your full wages or benefits please contact the Office of Head Start at <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/>

For additional support and career guidance

contact [careeradvisors@earlychildhoodny.org](mailto:careeradvisors@earlychildhoodny.org) or visit our website [earlychildhoodny.org](http://earlychildhoodny.org)