FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT BENEFITS EXTENSIONS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE NEW COVID-19 RELIEF PACKAGE?

Under the American Rescue Plan, federal unemployment benefits, including Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) for Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants, and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) have been extended through Sept. 4, 2021.

In order to receive extended benefits, claimants must continue to certify every week. There is no need to reapply or contact the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services (DWS) unless you are told to submit a new application OR your UI benefit year has come to an end and you have received 8 times your weekly benefit amount in wages from an employer since filing your initial claim. If you have not received 8 times your weekly amount in wages or if you are a PUA recipient, you can continue to certify, and do not need to call or reapply.

Get more information about how you should proceed at your benefit year ending (BYE) date at wyomingworkforce.org.

WHAT DOES THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN’S UNEMPLOYMENT TAX BREAK MEAN FOR ME?

As each person’s tax liability is unique to them, the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services (DWS) refers Wyoming workers to guidance from the IRS at irs.gov.

HOW MANY WEEKS OF PUA BENEFITS CAN I RECEIVE?

PUA is now available through benefit week ending Sept. 4, 2021, or for a total of 79 weeks of benefits, whichever comes first.

HOW MANY WEEKS OF PEUC ARE NOW AVAILABLE?

Before the American Rescue Plan, PEUC provided 24 additional weeks of benefits after an individual used all 26 weeks of state UI benefits. The program has now been extended through benefit week ending Sept. 4, 2021, and increased to provide a total of 53 weeks of additional benefits to UI recipients.

HOW DO I SUBMIT ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION FOR NEW OR CONTINUED PUA ELIGIBILITY?

Federal law requires that new PUA claimants who apply after January 31, 2021, must provide employment documentation within 21 days of submitting their application. You should have received a letter explaining what documents are needed and how to upload them to your wyui.wyo.gov account.

All other PUA claimants who received a PUA payment on or after December 27, 2020, must provide documentation to prove employment, self-employment or the planned start of employment or self-employment. This includes anyone who was paid for a week of unemployment.
that was for a week prior to December 27, 2020. This proof must be submitted within 90 days of the state requesting this information. You should have received a letter explaining what documents are needed and how to upload them to your wyui.wyo.gov account.

This information must be provided within the time frame given (21 or 90 days), or good cause must be provided as to why proof can’t be returned on time. Failure to provide required proof will result in benefits being stopped. There also may be an overpayment that must be repaid.

In addition, everyone receiving PUA must continue to submit weekly certifications confirming they are still experiencing a COVID-19-related reason for unemployment.

**WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE EXHAUSTED MY BENEFITS BEFORE THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN WAS SIGNED INTO LAW ON MARCH 12, 2021?**

Claimants who exhausted their PUA or UI benefits (including PEUC and EB) before the American Rescue Plan’s 25-week extension and who remain unemployed should submit their weekly certification to begin receiving PUA or PEUC benefits again. When you certify, you will be asked about your “break in claims” – answer whether you returned to work since you last certified in order to receive the benefits for which you are eligible moving forward.

**PLEASE NOTE:**
1. If your UI benefit year (the 52-week period starting when you first received benefits) has ended, you may need to reapply for benefits. The best way to apply is online at wyui.wyo.gov.

   If you have not worked for an employer OR have worked for an employer but have not earned 10 times your weekly benefit amount since filing your initial claim: Continue to certify on your existing claim. You can keep certifying on your existing claim. You do not have to reapply if you did not return to work, but if you choose to reapply, we will review your eligibility for a new claim.

   If you have worked for an employer AND earned 8 times your weekly benefit amount since filing your initial claim: You must file a new claim. If you continue to claim on an expired claim, your benefits may be stopped.

2. If your PUA benefit year has ended, you may continue certifying. PUA claimants do not need to reapply when their benefit year comes to an end.

3. If you have already exhausted your PUA or UI benefits (including PEUC and EB), federal law provides that you can only receive benefits for weeks ending on or after March 14, 2021. No retroactive benefits will be paid.

**DOES THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN CHANGE WHO NEEDS TO REAPPLY FOR BENEFITS?**

No, the American Rescue Plan does not change who must reapply for benefits. For more information on if you must reapply when you reach your BYE date, go to wyomingworkforce.org.

**ARE ADDITIONAL FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (FPUC) BENEFITS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN?**

Yes, FPUC benefits have been extended. Wyoming workers receiving unemployment benefits will receive an additional $300 weekly payments. Under federal law, these payments will last for 25 additional weeks, until the week ending September 4, 2021.

To receive FPUC benefits, claimants must be eligible for and receive state UI, PUA, PEUC, or EB benefits. Wyoming workers continued receiving FPUC benefits the week of March 14, 2021.

**WILL I GET A $1,400 STIMULUS CHECK FROM DWS?**

Economic Impact Payments are distributed by the IRS, not through DWS. Visit irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment for more information.