A GUIDE TO PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE
WHAT IS PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE?
PUA can provide up to 50 weeks of unemployment benefits to individuals not eligible for regular unemployment compensation or extended benefits, including those who have exhausted benefits.

If you are self-employed, a contract worker, or are otherwise not eligible for regular unemployment, and are not working due to COVID-19, you may be eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA).
The first payable week for the continuation of the program is effective 12/27/20 (week ending 01/02/21) for those who already have a PUA claim in WYUI.

The last payable week is 03/13/21.
This program adds 11 weeks of PUA to the claim balance:

✓ On PUA claims with an effective date prior to 12/27/20, it will add 11 weeks to the 39 already available (for a total of 50) at the same WBA

✓ For new PUA applications filed from 12/27/20 forward, it will add 50 weeks (the original 39 + the new 11)
The PUA minimum Weekly Benefit Amount (WBA) remains $193
The calculation of the WBA is the same as that for regular UI, but the base period* is not. If the claimant is not eligible based upon that calculation, the minimum PUA WBA is used on the claim.

*The base period is the calendar year prior to the effective date of the PUA claim.
The claimant must submit proof of any self-employment earned in the base period. The documentation they can provide as proof of self-employment includes their 1040 Schedule C income tax return for the base period. If that is not available, other documentation that can be provided includes pay check stubs, bank receipts, business records, ledgers, contracts, invoices and billing statements.
There is a new Federal requirement that claimants must submit documentation of employment or self-employment that demonstrates their attachment to the labor force.
Any claimants who already have a PUA claim on file and are receiving PUA payments from 12/27/20 forward (no matter which week they are being paid for) and have not previously provided base period earnings information will have to submit documentation of employment or self-employment that demonstrates their attachment to the labor force within 90 days of applying (or being notified of the requirement, whichever is later).
✓ Proof of employment includes, but is not limited to, paycheck stubs, earnings and leave statements showing the employer’s name and address, and W-2 forms.

✓ Proof of self-employment includes, but is not limited to, state or federal employer identification numbers, business licenses, tax returns, business receipts, and signed affidavits from persons verifying the individual’s NET self-employment.

✓ Proof of the planned commencement of employment includes, but is not limited to, letters offering employment, statements/affidavits by individuals (with name and contact information) verifying an offer of employment.

✓ Proof of the planned commencement of self-employment includes, but is not limited to, business licenses, state or federal employer identification numbers, written business plans, or a lease agreement.
Any claimants who apply for a new PUA claim will have to submit documentation of employment or self-employment that demonstrates their attachment to the labor force within 21 days of applying (or being notified of the requirement, whichever is later).

If proof is not received, their claim will be shut down and an overpayment created for paid weeks from 12/27/20 forward.
All PUA claimants must have their identity verified. If they were previously verified, we do not have to do so a second time.

Claimants are not eligible for PUA if they do not have their identity verified. They must send in proof of their identity to the Agency.
FRAUD
If fraud is found in the initial PUA application, the entire PUA claim is disqualified.

If fraud occurs during the continued claim series, the disqualification would apply to the week the fraud occurred plus the next two compensable weeks for PUA that immediately follow.

If the state suspects fraudulent activity, they may request supporting documentation to address the concern.
NOTE

PUA is taxable and subject to child support deductions
You can apply online or by phone. However, call volumes are high right now and applying online will be faster.

Visit wyui.wyo.gov
If you need to file for PUA or PEUC, please monitor wyomingworkforce.org for updates. Those programs are not available yet in WYUI.
WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER, WYOMING!