



UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Extended Benefits

S.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT & WORKFORCE



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EXTENDED BENEFITS

What is Extended Benefits?

Extended Benefits (EB) will allow up to an additional 10 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits. This is after a claimant has exhausted both their regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits of 20 weeks and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) benefits of 13 weeks.

In October 2020, The United States Department of Labor notified the South Carolina Department of Workforce that South Carolina's unemployment rate fell below the 8.0% threshold necessary to remain on a High Unemployment Period in Extended Benefits (EB). The High Unemployment Period will end October 10, 2020. Beginning October 11, 2020, the maximum potential entitlement for claimants in the EB program will decrease from 16 weeks to 10 weeks.

For claimants who have received more than the maximum 10 weeks of Regular Extended Benefits, their last payable week will be the week ending October 10, 2020. For claimants who have not received more than the maximum 10 weeks of regular Extended Benefits, their benefits will be reduced to an amount not to exceed 10 weeks.

Who can receive EB?

Extended Benefits may be available to workers who have exhausted regular UI benefits and PEUC Benefits.

Why was I found eligible to receive Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), but ineligible to receive EB benefits?

Not everyone who qualified for regular benefits or PEUC benefits qualifies for Extended Benefits. You may be found ineligible to receive EB:

- If you were previously discharged/fired from your job due to misconduct or cause, you may have to return to work and earn specific amount prior to being eligible to receive EB.
- If you did not exhaust your regular UI benefits prior to the Extended Benefits period, you may not be eligible for Extended Benefits.

What are the minimum requirements for eligibility of the EB program, outlined by the U.S. Department of Labor?

EB is payable only after exhaustion of PEUC and other unemployment insurance benefits as explained below. During the period that PEUC is available, an individual must have exhausted PEUC entitlement before becoming eligible to receive EB. To qualify for EB, the individual must have:

- Exhausted all rights to regular UI under state law;
- No rights to regular UI with respect to any UI law of another state or Canada;
- Exhausted PEUC;
- Wages in the base period (with respect to the regular UI claim that was exhausted) that includes one of the following: (1) 20 weeks of full-time covered employment; (2) wages higher than 40 times the individual's most recent weekly benefit amount; or (3) total wages in the base period equal to or greater than 1.5 times the highest quarter (see Section 202(a)(5), EUCA);

- No disqualifications that would prevent the individual from being eligible for EB (see Section 202(a)(4), EUCA); and
- At least one week in the benefit year that begins in an EB eligibility period (see Section 203(c), EUCA). This means your regular UI benefit year had to have ended on or after June 14, 2020 in order to be eligible for EB.

How much am I eligible to receive under the EB program?

The weekly benefit amount of Extended Benefits is the same as you received for regular unemployment compensation or through the PEUC program. Currently the maximum amount of Extended Benefits that an individual could receive is up to 16 weeks.

The EB Maximum Benefit Amount (MBA) is equal to the lesser of:

1. 50 % of the MBA of the UI claim.
2. 13 times the Weekly Benefit Amount (WBA).

Will I receive the \$600 FPUC payment in addition to my EB benefits?

Eligible EB claimants will receive a weekly benefit amount and the \$600 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) payment only through claim week ending July 25, 2020. July 25, 2020 is the date when the FPUC program expired. After July 25, 2020, eligible claimants will continue to receive their weekly benefit amount made available through EB.

How do I apply for EB benefits?

If you are eligible to apply for EB benefits, you will see a hyperlink listed on the Customer Menu page of your MyBenefits portal. Please remember you will only see the "Apply for Extended Benefits" link if you have already exhausted your 20 weeks of regular UI and 13 additional weeks of PEUC.

How long will it take to receive EB benefits after I first apply?

If you are found eligible for benefits, you may receive your payment within 7-14 days, but for more complex claims it could take up to 21 days to process and receive payment.

What am I responsible to do each week to continue to receive EB?

As with all programs, your eligibility for EB will be evaluated each week. You must be able and available for work during each week that you file a claim for EB.

You must also complete a weekly certification of your claim each week in your MyBenefits portal letting us know that you are still unemployed. Failure to certify will cause a delay in the payment of your benefits for that week as benefits are not automatically released.

Do I need to perform two job searches each week on the SC Works Online Services (SCWOS) job portal?

At this time, no. DEW has waived the requirement to perform two weekly job searches through SCWOS at least through the State of Emergency declared by the governor in South Carolina. You will be notified well in advance of your work search responsibility for Extended Benefits, as they will differ than regular UI.



Am I eligible to receive EB if I live out of state, but work in South Carolina?

If the paying state is in an EB eligibility period, but the residence state is not, then the individual is eligible for only two weeks of EB payments from the liable state.

CHART: Unemployment Insurance *Guide to the CARES Act*

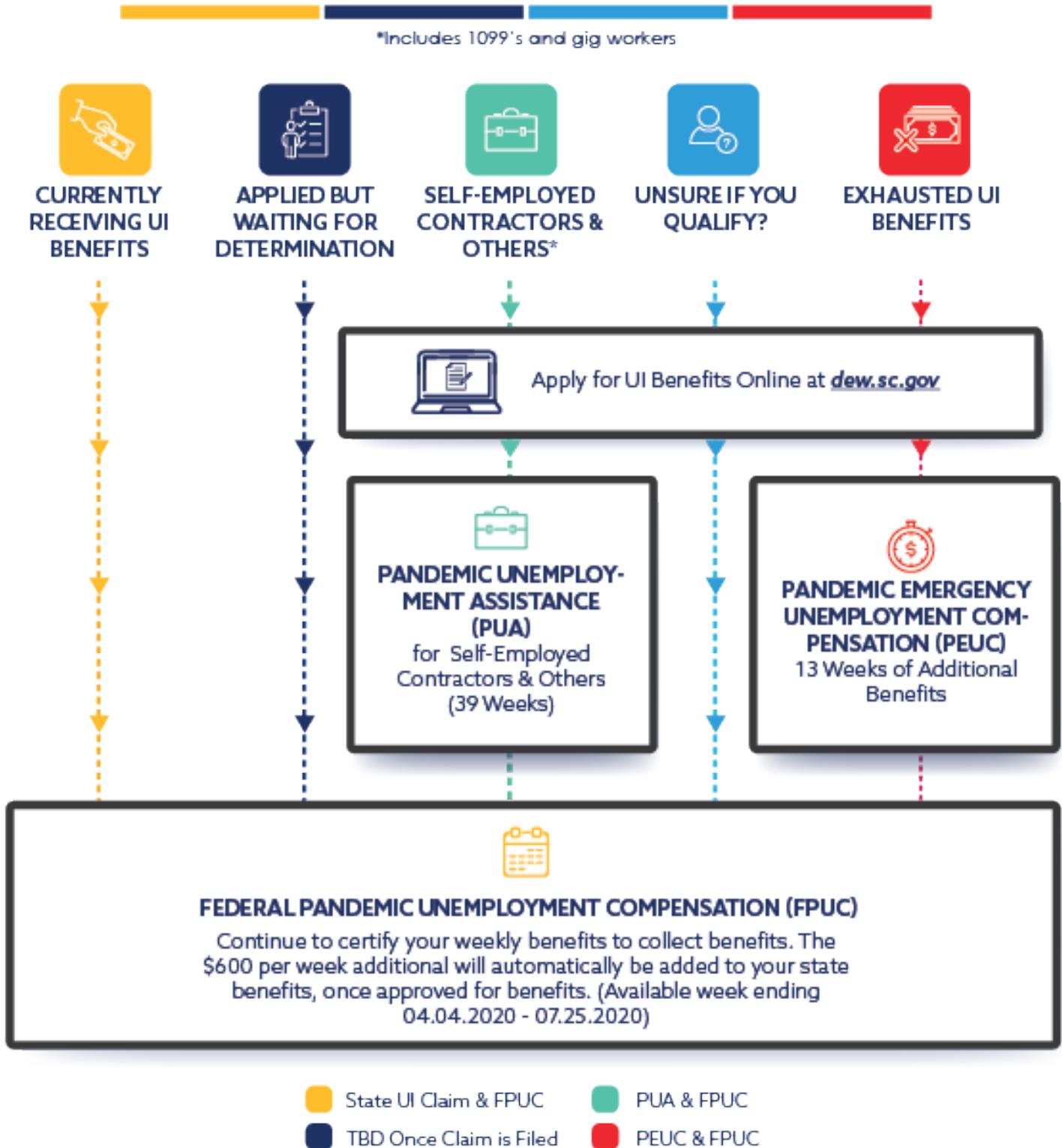


CHART: Comparison of *BENEFIT PROGRAMS*

	SC Unemployment Insurance	SC Extended Benefits	\$600 (Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation - FPUC)	Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)	Benefits for Self-Employed and those not Eligible for UI (Pandemic Unemployment Assistance - PUA)
WHO IS THIS FOR?	Unemployed workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own.	Individuals who have exhausted regular UI benefits during periods of high unemployment - triggered by SC law.	Individuals receiving regular UI, EB, PUA, or PEUC.	Individuals who remain unemployed after UI is no longer available.	Individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost as a direct result of COVID-19 and are not eligible for regular UI, EB, or PEUC, including exhaustees.
WHO DOES THIS SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDE?	Individuals who are unable to work or those who do not have a recent earnings history.				Excludes individuals able to telework with pay or individuals receiving paid leave.
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unemployed through no fault of their own; 2. Able, available, and actively seeking work; 3. Has registered for work with SCWOS; 4. Has not earned excess wages; and 5. Has not refused work. 	If available, Extended Benefits may start after an individual exhausts other UI benefits.	Individuals must have an active benefit claim under state or federal law.	Individuals must have exhausted state benefits or the benefit year has ended, and the individual is not currently eligible for UI.	Individuals must provide self-certification that the individual is otherwise able and available except that the individual is unable to work because of COVID-19.
MONETARY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT	Must have earned at least \$4,455 in covered employment during their base period. The base period is either the four oldest of the last five completed calendar quarters or the last four completed calendar quarters. Additionally, the total amount of wages in the base period must be at least 1.5 times the wages earned in the highest earning quarter.		Must meet state minimum monetary eligibility requirements to establish a claim.	Must meet state minimum monetary eligibility requirements to establish a claim.	Similar manner to regular state UI benefits. Self-employed must provide information to establish eligibility.
AMOUNT RECEIVED	Between \$42 and \$326.	Between \$42 and \$326.	\$600 per week in addition to regular benefit amount.	Weekly benefit amount from the prior benefit year plus the \$600 FPUC payment.	Weekly benefit amount under state UI law plus the \$600 FPUC payment.
FUNDING	State (the UI trust fund is comprised of taxes SC employers pay on their payroll).	Federally funded (authorized under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act through 12/31/20).	100% federally funded.	100% federally funded.	100% federally funded.
DURATION	Up to 20 weeks of full UI benefits.	Additional 10 weeks of UI benefits.		Additional 13 weeks of benefits.	39 weeks of benefits total, including regular UI and EB weeks.
TIMEFRAME			Effective from the claim week ending April 4, 2020 through the claim week ending July 25, 2020.	Effective from the claim week ending April 4, 2020 through the claim week ending December 26, 2020.	Effective for the claim week ending February 8, 2020 through the claim week ending December 26, 2020.