

March 19, 2020

Last week President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan that included several updates to the Unemployment Insurance Pandemic programs.

We have been provided a broad overview of the updates impacting the UI pandemic programs and are programming our systems to accommodate the updates as we understand them today. However, the new updates extending the effected programs have not been completed. Our goal is to have to have them completed soon after we receive federal guidance on the changes.

Claimants who are on one of the pandemic programs and in certification status should be able to certify for last week. However, the certify link routinely listed on next Sunday's calendar date (March 21, 2021) may not be there. This link will re-appear once our system is updated to extend the programs and add on the additional weeks.

Below is a general overview of the UI pandemic program updates included in this stimulus package:

FPUC (Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation)

Provides an additional \$300 per week, as long as the claimant is eligible for a minimum of \$1 of their underlying benefit.

- Previously the program was set to end March 13, 2021.
- This program has been extended through September 6, 2021 (or WED September 4, 2021).

PEUC (Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation)

Provides additional weeks or unemployment after exhaustion of their regular UI claim, as long as the BYE of the regular UI claim was 7/6/2019 and greater.

- Previously the program had 24 times the WBA of benefits and ended March 13, 2021 and included a phase out period through April 10, 2021.
 - The extended program does not have a phase out period.
- This program provides 53 times the WBA of benefits and extends the program through September 6, 2021 (or WED September 4, 2021).

PUA (Pandemic Unemployment Assistance)

Provides UI assistance to self-employed, gig economy workers, independent contractors and those who otherwise would not be eligible for regular UI claims and have been impacted by COVID-19 meeting the eligibility requirements for the PUA program.

- Previously the program allowed 50 weeks of benefits and ended March 13, 2021.
- Previously the program also provided for a phaseout period that ran through April 10, 2021.
 - The extended program does not have a phase out period.
- This program now allows for 79 weeks of benefits and has been extended to September 6, 2021 (or WED September 4, 2021).

Additional updates will be posted as we receive guidance.