Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)

All information below can be found at: <https://www.uimn.org/applicants/needtoknow/news-updates/cares-act.jsp>

Congress recently passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). That law includes several changes that may affect your eligibility for unemployment benefits. These changes include:

* $600/week additional compensation for people receiving unemployment benefits.
* A new benefit program for workers who are unemployed as a result of [COVID-19](https://www.uimn.org/applicants/needtoknow/news-updates/covid-19.jsp) who are **NOT** eligible for regular unemployment benefits.
* An extension of unemployment benefits for up to 13 weeks.

The CARES Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020. Before we can implement this law, we need detailed guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor. We will also have to make any technology changes necessary to adhere to that guidance.

We will provide updates here as we make progress. We are also planning on sending mass emails with updates as they become available.

**CARES Act changes**

[**Additional compensation ($600 per week)**](https://www.uimn.org/applicants/needtoknow/news-updates/cares-act.jsp#2)

Under the CARES Act, you will continue to receive your regular unemployment benefit amount. You will also receive $600 per week of additional compensation.

Assuming we get clearance from the U.S. Department of Labor, we will implement this program immediately.

If you are eligible for any unemployment benefit program, you will automatically receive the additional compensation.

**What you need to know:**

* The first week for which you can get the additional $600 is the week beginning March 29th.
* You can request the week of March 29th on or after April 5th.
* You do not need to do anything to get the additional $600. We will automatically add it to your payment AFTER you request benefits for the week of March 29th (and every week after that you are eligible).
* If you are receiving your unemployment benefits via direct deposit, expect that the additional amount will show up on your bank statement as a separate transaction.

[**Benefits for self-employed people, independent contractors, and others who are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits**](https://www.uimn.org/applicants/needtoknow/news-updates/cares-act.jsp#3)

The CARES Act created a new program called Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA).

The United States Department of Labor will not allow us to begin paying PUA benefits until they issue additional instructions. We expect PUA benefits will be available before the end of April. We will post updates to this website as they are available; our customer service representatives will not have any additional information.

PUA benefits may be available to unemployed workers who are **NOT** eligible for regular unemployment benefits, including:

* Self-employed people
* Independent contractors

[**13 week extension**](https://www.uimn.org/applicants/needtoknow/news-updates/cares-act.jsp#4)

The CARES Act created a new program called Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, which will provide 13 weeks of extended unemployment benefits for certain workers.

The United States Department of Labor will not allow us to begin paying extended benefits until they issue additional instructions. We expect extended benefits will be available before the end of April. We will post updates to this website as they are available; our customer service representatives will not have any additional information.

**What you need to know:**

* You don’t need to tell us you have exhausted your benefits – just continue requesting benefits every week.
* Once we get instructions from USDOL, we will be able to detect everyone eligible for Extended Benefits and add those benefits to their account.
* We can then automatically pay you for any weeks you had requested.
* We will let you know if we need additional information from you.