

Urgent Bulletin

Arizona Department of Economic Security
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

05/12/2020

Program Impact: CA and NA

This Urgent Bulletin is being issued to inform staff that the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program is going to start in Arizona on May 12, 2020. Applications will be processed beginning the week of May 12 and payments will begin for eligible participants that same week.

Pandemic unemployment benefits are available for weeks of unemployment beginning February 2, 2020 through the week ending December 26, 2020. PUA provides a benefit ranging from \$117 to \$240 per week, for up to 39 weeks.

Participants receiving PUA benefits will also receive an additional \$600 weekly in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefits between the weeks of March 29, 2020 and July 25, 2020.

PUA is temporary relief for workers affected by Coronavirus under Title II, Subtitle A. Section 2102 of the CARES Act. PUA is a new program and includes participants who:

- Are determined to be monetarily ineligible
- Have exhausted all rights to such benefits
- Are self-employed
- Are seeking part-time employment
- Lack sufficient work history or
- Otherwise do not qualify for regular unemployment compensation or extended benefits under state or Federal law or Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)

PUA is countable for Nutrition Assistance (NA)

PUA is not countable for Cash Assistance (CA)

EXCEPTION

PUA is countable for Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)

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NA:

A new income sub type code, PU has been added to AZTECS to key the PUA UI income.

On 04/13/2020, a new income sub type code, FP was added to AZTECS to key the FPUC UI income.

On UNIN, key the UI PU in the INC TYPE field and key the weekly amount on UNIC in the month it is received using the WK frequency code.

When participants receive both PUA and FPUC, there will be two separate types of unemployment budgeted on UNIN:

- PUA amounts are coded as UI PU
- FPUC amounts are coded as UI FP

Arizona Department of Economic Security (AZDES) has mailed checks to participants who filed an initial claim for UI benefits between February 2, 2020, and May 2, 2020, and did not meet the criteria for regular UI, but do meet the eligibility criteria for PUA.

These participants will receive an initial payment representing the minimum PUA benefit amount (\$117 per week) plus the additional \$600 in weekly benefits added by the CARES Act. These first payments will include three-weeks' worth of benefits.

When participants report that they have received checks under the PUA program between February 2, 2020 and May 2, 2020, a Potential Overpayment (OP) Referral (FAA-0526A) form must be completed for the period of potential ineligibility or incorrect benefit amount. The completed FAA-0526A must be sent to the Overpayment Unit.

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RCA:

In order to count the regular UI or PUA and the FPUC income for RCA cases only, key the UI OT in the INC TYPE field on UNIN.

Key the weekly amount on UNIC in the month it is received using the WK frequency code.

IMPORTANT-RCA Cases Are Handled by The FAA Refugee Units Only (Site Code 169C and 285C)

Be sure that RCA Active Cases completed between 04/13/2020 and 05/11/2020 have been reviewed to ensure the correct keying of regular UI or UI PU and UI FP income. A Potential Overpayment (OP) Referral (FAA-0526A) form must be completed for the period of potential ineligibility or incorrect benefit amount. The completed FAA-0526A must be sent to the Overpayment Unit.

Please contact the FAA Policy Support Team by phone at (602) 774-5523 or by e-mail at FAAPolicyMgmt@azdes.gov with any questions or concerns regarding this broadcast.

Please consider the environment before printing this broadcast.

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