

Urgent Bulletin

Arizona Department of Economic Security
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

Extension of UI Benefits and Second Stimulus Payment

01/05/2021

Program Impact: NA and CA

This Urgent Bulletin is being issued to inform staff that the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 on 12/27/2020 that authorizes extended supplemental unemployment benefits created by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act. This authorization allows expansion of the following Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits:

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA):

PUA provides benefits to participants who do not have eligible earnings from an employer who paid UI taxes, lack sufficient work history, self-employed or otherwise do not qualify for regular UI, Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) or Extended Benefits (EB). Once eligible for any of those income types, participants are not eligible for PUA.

The PUA expansion provides up to an additional 11 weeks of benefits, to a maximum of 50 weeks. The 50 weeks include the existing 39 weeks as established by the CARES Act.

PUA is available until the week ending 03/13/2021 (no new applications after that date), with an allowance for three additional weeks of benefits for those who have not reached the maximum number of weeks through the week ending 04/03/2021.

The hub verification for PUA income is available in HEAplus effective 08/11/2020.

Confirm Income from electronic sources Notes

SOLQI Response Summary

Confirm Income

The income shown below came from electronic sources. Please check it carefully to make sure it is correct. The amounts shown are BEFORE taxes or deductions

Please check carefully to make sure the income shown is correct.

Name	Income	Is this still Correct?
Helene S Dark	Unemployment Benefits - Pandemic Assistance \$117.00 Weekly	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

UnEmployment Benefits as of 07/02/2020 Last updated on 05/08/2020

Payment Details	
Date Received	Amount

Verification Document History

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Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC):

PEUC is a pandemic extension that provides an additional unemployment benefit to qualified participants whose regular UI benefits were exhausted on or after 07/06/2019. It is verified through HOSC and appears under the UI AMT field. PUA recipients do not qualify for PEUC benefits.

The PEUC expansion provides up to an additional 11 weeks of benefits, to a maximum of 24 weeks. This includes the existing 13 weeks as established through the CARES Act.

PEUC is available until the week ending 03/13/2021 (no new applications after that date), with an allowance of three additional weeks of benefits for those who have not reached the maximum number of weeks through the week ending 04/03/2021.

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC):

FPUC is an additional \$300 weekly benefit for participants when they receive at least one dollar of underlying benefits for a claimed week.

This expansion of FPUC provides up to 11 weeks of an additional \$300 weekly benefit to eligible participants starting benefit week ending 01/02/2021 and will end with benefit week ending 03/13/2021.

A participant must be eligible through an underlying unemployment benefit to receive FPUC. The underlying unemployment benefits could be any of the following:

- Unemployment Insurance (UI)
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
- Extended Benefits (EB)
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

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HOSC HOUSEHOLD SYSTEM CHECK 122920 12:47
MONTH 12/2020 PSE C
CASE NAME: EXAMPLE, UNEMPLOYMENT CASE NUMBER: 09999000
CONTINUED FOR: EXAMPLE UNEMPLOYMENT 123 45 6789
BENEFIT YEAR BEGIN: 20200614 BENEFIT YEAR END: 20210612
WKLY BEN AMOUNT: 240.00 PAID TO DATE: 6240.00 BAL: 5760.00
OVERPAYMENT BAL: .00

DIR DEP:	ISSUE DATE	UI AMT	FAC AMT	PAY TYPE	CS PAID	OP AMT	DISQ CODE
	20200908	240.00	300.00	01	.00	.00	00
	20200831	240.00	300.00	01	.00	.00	00
	20200824	240.00	300.00	01	.00	.00	00

The FPUC payment is excluded as income or as a resource in the month of receipt and any of the following nine months for Nutrition Assistance (NA) and Cash Assistance (CA).

The FPUC \$300 appears under the FAC field on HOSC. This weekly income is keyed separately from the underlying unemployment benefits.

On UNIN, key the UI FP Income Type Code in the INC TYPE field for NA and CA. Key the weekly amount on UNIC in the month it is received using the WK Frequency Code.

Railroad Unemployment and Sickness Benefits

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 also expanded railroad unemployment benefits. The Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA) is a federal unemployment program which provides qualified railroad employees with biweekly benefits to restore part of their lost wages arising from periods of unemployment or sickness. When participants report RUIA income, it must be verified with the U.S Railroad Retirement Board. RUIA is countable for NA and excluded from CA.

On UNIN, key the OF Income Type Code in the INC TYPE field for NA and CA. Key the biweekly amount on UNIC in the month it is received using the BW Frequency Code.

Urgent Bulletin

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For more information regarding the UI AZTECS income codes, see FAA4.H03E.19 titled Unemployment Insurance (UI) in the Cash and Nutrition Assistance Policy (CNAP) Manual. RUIA will be added to the CNAP in a future revision.

For cases with RCA only or RCA and NA:

To count underlying unemployment benefit and the FPUC income, key the UI OT Income Type Code in the INC TYPE field on UNIN.

Key the weekly amount on UNIC in the month it is received using the WK Frequency Code.

Second Stimulus Payment:

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 included a provision for Additional 2020 Recovery Rebates for Individuals. This provision authorizes up to an additional \$600 payment to eligible individuals, including children. This payment is also known as a Stimulus Payment.

The Stimulus Payment is being treated as a Federal Tax Refund for 2020. This is not countable as income or a resource in the month of receipt and the 12 months after the month of receipt for NA or CA.

For more information on budgeting the tax refund as unearned income or a resource see FAA4.B03S titled Tax Refunds – Liquid Assets and FAA4.H03XX titled Tax Refunds – Unearned Income in the CNAP Manual.

Key the TR Unearned Income Code in the INC TYPE field on UNIC in the months the income is received. Key OX on the LIAS AZTECS screen for any money remaining in the following 12 months as a resource.

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.

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