

Urgent Bulletin

Arizona Department of Economic Security
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

Extension of UI Benefits and Stimulus Payment

03/19/2021

Program Impact: CA and NA

This Urgent Bulletin is being issued to inform staff that the President signed the H.R.1319 - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 on 03/11/2021 that authorizes an extension of 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 self-employed participants, contract workers, and other workers who are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits.

Participants are allowed to receive up to 79 weeks of PUA benefits until the benefit week ending 09/04/2021. The hub verification for PUA income is available in HEAplus effective 08/11/2020 and is acceptable verification for Nutrition Assistance (NA) and Cash Assistance (CA).

PUA is countable for NA and Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and not countable for CA.

Key the following on UNIC in the month it is received using the WK frequency code:

For NA and CA, key the UI PU Unearned Income Code.

For RCA, key the UI OT Unearned Income Code.

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC):

PEUC is a pandemic extension that provides an additional unemployment benefit to qualified participants whose regular state or federal unemployment benefits were exhausted on or after July 1, 2019.

Participants are allowed to receive up to 53 weeks of PEUC benefits until the benefit week ending 09/04/2021. It is verified through HOSC and appears under the UI AMT field. PUA recipients do not qualify for PEUC benefits.

PEUC is countable for NA and RCA and not countable for CA.

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Key the following on UNIC in the month it is received using the WK frequency code:

For NA and CA, key the UI Unearned Income Code.

For RCA, key the UI OT Unearned Income Code.

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.

Participants are allowed to receive the \$300 weekly benefit on top of their underlying unemployment benefit until the benefit week ending 09/04/2021.

The FPUC payment is excluded as income in the month of receipt and as a resource in any of the nine months following receipt for NA and CA.

FPUC is countable for RCA as income.

Key the following on UNIC in the month it is received using the WK frequency code:

For NA and CA, key the UI FP Unearned Income Code

For RCA, key the UI OT Unearned Income Code.

Third Stimulus Payment:

The H.R.1319, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 included a provision for additional 2021 Recovery Rebates for Individuals. This provision authorizes up to an additional \$1400 payment to eligible participants, including children. This payment is also known as a Stimulus Payment.

The Stimulus Payment is being treated as a Federal Tax Refund for 2021. This payment 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 Tax Refunds – Federal – Liquid Assets and FAA4.H03XX Tax Refunds – Federal – Unearned Income - in the Cash and Nutrition Assistance Policy (CNAP) Manual.

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

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