

Urgent Bulletin

Arizona Department of Economic Security
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

Lost Wage Assistance (LWA) Unemployment Program

08/21/2020

Program Impact: CA and NA

This Urgent Bulletin is being issued to inform staff that on August 8, 2020, the President Issued the Memorandum on Authorizing the Other Needs Assistance Program for Major Disaster Declaration Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019. The memorandum establishes the Lost Wage Assistance (LWA) unemployment program.

The LWA provides an eligible participant with \$300 a week in addition to the weekly benefit amount they receive from certain other Unemployment Compensation (UC) programs. The LWA program is effective beginning the week ending 08/01/2020 until 12/05/2020 or until dollars set aside in the fund run out.

The LWA payment began in Arizona on 08/17/2020 for the week ending 08/15/2020. Participants will also receive retroactive payments for benefit weeks ending 08/01/2020 and 08/08/2020.

In order to qualify for the LWA benefit, participants must qualify for any of the following UC programs:

- Unemployment Insurance (UI)
- Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE)
- Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service members (UCX)
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
- Extended Benefits (EB)
- Shared Work (SW)
- Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA)

When budgeting the LWA, consider the following:

- LWA is countable in full for Nutrition Assistance (NA) and Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)
- LWA is not countable for Cash Assistance (CA)

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The LWA income is keyed separately from the other types of UC income listed above.

On UNIN, key the UI LW 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.

Participants will begin to receive retroactive payments in the month of 08/2020. The retroactive payments are intended to cover the weeks ending 08/01/2020 and 08/08/2020. Any retroactive payments received in the month of 08/2020 are considered received in the month they are intended and should be budgeted in that month.

For cases with RCA only or RCA and NA:

To count the regular UC and the LWA 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.

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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