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Department  
of Labor

# THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

## Frequently Asked Questions

### WHAT BENEFITS EXTENSIONS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE NEW COVID-19 RELIEF PACKAGE?

Under the American Rescue Plan, federal unemployment benefits, including Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) for Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants, and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) have been extended for 25 additional weeks until the week ending September 5, 2021.

In order to receive extended benefits, claimants must continue to certify every week. There is no need to reapply or contact DOL unless you are told to submit a new application OR your UI benefit year has come to an end and you have received ten times your weekly benefit rate in wages from an employer since filing your initial claim. If you have not received ten times your weekly rate in wages or if you are a PUA recipient, you can continue to certify, and do not need to call or reapply.

Get more information about how you should proceed at your benefit year ending (BYE) date at [on.ny.gov/bye](https://on.ny.gov/bye).

### WHAT DOES THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN'S UNEMPLOYMENT TAX BREAK MEAN FOR ME?

As each person's tax liability is unique to them, NYS DOL refers New Yorkers to guidance from the IRS.

### HOW MANY WEEKS OF PUA BENEFITS CAN I RECEIVE?

PUA is now available through benefit week ending September 5, 2021 or for a total of 79 weeks of benefits, whichever comes first.

### HOW MANY WEEKS OF PEUC ARE NOW AVAILABLE?

Before the American Rescue Plan, PEUC provided 24 additional weeks of benefits after an individual used all 26 weeks of state UI benefits. The program has now been extended through benefit week ending September 5, 2021 and increased to provide a total of 53 weeks of additional benefits to UI recipients.

### WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM RECEIVING BENEFITS THROUGH THE EXTENDED BENEFITS (EB) PROGRAM, BUT I AM NOW ELIGIBLE FOR PEUC BENEFITS AGAIN?

Claimants who are currently receiving EB will not be able to receive PEUC until they exhaust their EB benefits. After you have received all 20 weeks of benefits from the EB program, you should continue to certify weekly if you are still out of work and you will automatically transition to receive the PEUC benefits you are entitled to.

**Please note:** as of March 2021, EB currently provides 20 weeks of additional benefits, but this may change if New York's unemployment rate declines. We will provide additional information if that happens.

### HOW DO I SUBMIT ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION FOR NEW OR CONTINUED PUA ELIGIBILITY?

Federal law requires that new PUA claimants who apply after January 31, 2021 must provide employment documentation within 21 days of submitting their application. We will contact PUA claimants when they are required to submit documentation.

All other PUA claimants who received a PUA payment on or after December 27, 2020 must provide documentation to prove employment, self-employment or the planned start of employment or self-employment. This includes anyone who was paid for a week of unemployment that was for a week prior to December 27, 2020. This proof must be submitted within 90 days of the state requesting

this information. We will contact PUA claimants when they are required to submit documentation and what type of documentation must be provided.

Once New York requests this documentation, it must be provided within the time frame given (21 or 90 days) or good cause must be provided as to why proof can't be returned on time. Failure to provide required proof will result in benefits being stopped. There also may be an overpayment that must be repaid.

In addition, everyone receiving PUA must continue to submit weekly certifications confirming they are still experiencing a COVID-19-related reason for unemployment.

## **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE EXHAUSTED MY BENEFITS BEFORE THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN WAS SIGNED INTO LAW ON MARCH 12, 2021?**

Claimants who exhausted their PUA or UI benefits (including PEUC and EB) before the American Rescue Plan's 25-week extension and who remain unemployed should submit their weekly certification to begin receiving PUA or PEUC benefits again. When you certify, you will be asked about your "break in claims" – answer whether you returned to work since you last certified in order to receive the benefits for which you are eligible moving forward.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

1. If your UI benefit year (the 52-week period starting when you first received benefits) has ended, you may need to reapply for benefits. The best way to apply is online at [unemployment.labor.ny.gov](https://unemployment.labor.ny.gov).
  - If you have not worked for an employer OR have worked for an employer but have not earned 10 times your weekly benefit rate since filing your initial claim: Continue to certify on your existing claim. You can keep certifying on your existing claim. You do not have to reapply if you did not return to work, but if you choose to reapply, we will review your eligibility for a new claim.
  - If you have worked for an employer AND earned 10 times your weekly benefit rate since filing your initial claim: You must file a new claim. If you continue to claim on an expired claim, your benefits may be stopped.
2. If your PUA benefit year has ended, you may continue certifying. PUA claimants do not need to reapply when their benefit year comes to an end.
3. If you have already exhausted your PUA or UI benefits (including PEUC and EB), federal law provides that you can only receive benefits for weeks ending on or after March 21, 2021. No retroactive benefits will be paid.

## **DOES THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN CHANGE WHO NEEDS TO REAPPLY FOR BENEFITS?**

No, the American Rescue Plan does not change who must reapply for benefits. For more information on if you must reapply when you reach your BYE date, go to [on.ny.gov/bye](https://on.ny.gov/bye).

## **ARE ADDITIONAL FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (FPUC) BENEFITS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN?**

Yes, FPUC benefits have been extended. New Yorkers receiving unemployment benefits will receive an additional \$300 weekly payments. Under federal law, these payments will last for 25 additional weeks, until the week ending September 5, 2021.

To receive FPUC benefits, claimants must be eligible for and receive state UI, Shared Work benefits, PUA, PEUC, or EB benefits. New Yorkers will continue receiving FPUC benefits the week of March 21, 2021.

## **DOES THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN EXTEND THE MIXED EARNER UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (MEUC) PROGRAM?**

Yes, the American Rescue Plan extends the MEUC program for an additional 25 weeks, until the week ending September 5, 2021. This program provides an additional \$100 weekly benefit to individuals collecting UI (not PUA) who earned at least \$5,000 a year in self-employment income. MEUC is not applicable for those on PUA.

## **WILL I GET A \$1,400 STIMULUS CHECK FROM NYS DOL?**

Economic Impact Payments are distributed by the IRS. Visit [irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment](https://irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment) for more information.