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**Department  
of Labor**

# LOST WAGES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FAQs

**UPDATE: AS OF DECEMBER 27, 2020, NO NEW LWA APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED, PER FEDERAL LAW.**

**Q: IS THE LOST WAGES ASSISTANCE (LWA) PROGRAM FOR NEW YORKERS RECEIVING TRADITIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) OR PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA)?**

A: Both traditional UI and PUA recipients may be eligible for additional benefits under the LWA program. The DOL is actively administering this program. We will notify claimants directly if they must take any action to certify and receive these additional benefits.

**Q: WHEN WILL I GET MY MONEY?**

A: New York State began administering the payments for the first three weeks of LWA the week of September 14. Payments for the second three weeks of LWA will be released by September 25. There is no need to call the DOL at this time — we will contact claimants with additional information. In the meantime, per federal law please continue to certify weekly to ensure you receive all benefits to which you are entitled.

**Q: IF MY WEEKLY BENEFIT IS LESS THAN \$100 BECAUSE OF TAXES OR BECAUSE I WAS PARTIALLY EMPLOYED IN A GIVEN WEEK, WILL I RECEIVE THE LWA PAYMENT?**

A: The LWA program's \$100 cutoff is based on a claimant's benefit base rate, which is calculated before any deductions or reductions. Because the minimum weekly benefit rate in New York is \$104 for UI and \$178 for PUA, all claimants in New York are above the \$100 cutoff. That means you can still qualify for the \$300 LWA payment if your UI or PUA payment in a given week is below \$100 because of taxes, part-time work, or other reductions. However, there may be additional criteria the federal government will require New Yorkers meet to qualify for funds — the DOL will contact claimants directly when that process is established.

**Q. HOW MANY PAYMENTS DO WE GET?**

A. The federal government has approved NYS DOL for a total of 6 weeks of Lost Wages Assistance (LWA). These include the benefit weeks ending August 2, August 9, August 16, August 23, August 30, and September 6. Payments for the first three weeks were released the week of September 14. Payments for the second and final three weeks will be released by Friday, September 25, 2020.

**Q. WILL THE PAYMENTS BE A LUMP SUM OR MULTIPLE PAYMENTS?**

A. Eligible New Yorkers will receive Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) in individual payments of \$300 per week for every week they qualify for.

**Q. IF I WAS ALREADY RECEIVING FPUC PAYMENTS WILL I HAVE TO CERTIFY FOR THE ADDITIONAL \$300?**

- Approximately 2.1 million are already qualified for the LWA program because they indicated on their initial benefit application that their unemployment was connected to the COVID-19 pandemic. These claimants:
  - Do not need to take any further action;
  - Received an email and text message from DOL on September 19, 2020 informing them they have pre-qualified for LWA.
  - May have received LWA payments starting the week of September 14; and
- Approximately 157,000 are eligible for one or more LWA payments for the weeks ending August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and/or September 6 but have not submitted a certification indicating they are unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as required by the federal government.
  - These New Yorkers have received a secure DocuSign email from NYS DOL with a link to certify, or they can call 833-491-0632 to certify via an automated phone system.
- Approximately 23,700 who were not eligible for the earlier weeks' payments because they were not unemployed during the first three weeks of August must certify their eligibility for one or more LWA payments for the weeks ending August 23, August 30, or September 6.
  - These New Yorkers will receive a secure DocuSign email from NYS DOL with a link to certify or they can call 833-491-0632 to certify via an automated phone system.
- New Yorkers who are pre-qualified for the second three weeks of LWA benefits, or who must certify and submit their certification by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22, will receive their payments the week of September 21. Those who submit their certification at a later date will be paid on a rolling basis.

**Q. HOW LONG WILL THE ASSISTANCE LAST?**

A. New York State has been approved for 6 weeks of Lost Wages Assistance (LWA). FEMA has exhausted funding for the program, and it will not continue beyond the 6 weeks.

**Q: HOW MUCH TIME DO I HAVE TO SUBMIT MY LWA CERTIFICATION?**

A: New Yorkers who need to certify for the LWA program will receive a secure DocuSign email from the DOL that must be filled out and submitted to be eligible for LWA benefits. The DocuSign email will contain an expiration date that your certification must be submitted by. If you have not certified via DocuSign or the automated phone system by the expiration date, you will no longer be eligible to certify for or receive LWA benefits.