A GUIDE TO PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE DURING COVID-19
Did your employer temporarily close their business to comply with state guidelines?
Wyoming unemployment benefits are available to individuals who are unemployed through no fault of their own. If an employer must shut down operations and no work is available, individuals may be eligible for unemployment benefits if they meet the monetary criteria and the federal weekly eligibility criteria.
Are you temporarily laid off or have your hours been reduced due to business slowdown or lack of demand?
If an employer must lay off employees due to the loss of production caused by the coronavirus, individuals may be eligible for unemployment benefits if they meet the monetary criteria and the federal weekly eligibility criteria.
We may be able to help.
REGULAR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS

Minimum weekly benefit: $36
Maximum weekly benefit: $508
Weeks of unemployment benefits: 11-26
BASIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The law requires the Department to “look back” to wages earned in your base period. In order to meet the monetary eligibility criteria for unemployment benefits, you must have earned the following...
At least some of your wages in Wyoming.
At least $3,800 in your total base period.
At least 1.4 times the wages in your highest quarter of earnings in the total base period, ensuring that all or the greatest majority of your wages were not earned in just one quarter.
If your employer requests you be job-attached for up to 12 weeks, you can collect unemployment benefits **without** having to look for other work.
What is available to me under the CARES ACT?
PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE
If you are self-employed, a contract worker, or are otherwise not eligible for regular unemployment, and are not working due to COVID-19, you may be eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). This program is retroactive to January 27, 2020, but the start date is driven by your last date of work.
An additional $600 will be added to each weekly payment. You do not have to apply for this separately. This program is in effect from March 29, 2020 through July 25, 2020 for eligible weeks.
For each week in which you apply for payment, to be eligible, you must still be unemployed as a direct result of the pandemic. You also must be able and available to work. You will be required to self-certify each week you file for payment.
If you have exhausted regular unemployment, you need to file for the Pandemic Extension (PEUC). This program will provide an additional 13 weeks of benefits.
The minimum weekly benefit amount is $193 on PUA. The FPUC payment of $600 weekly will be in addition to the PUA amount. But, remember, FPUC is only payable for eligible weeks between 03/29/2020 and 07/25/2020.
ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS
Expanded eligibility for those laid off due to COVID-19 will include no work search requirement and no registration requirement.
Child support and federal income tax are withheld from PUA benefits.
If your place of employment calls you back to work, and you refuse, you may be denied benefits.
Ready to apply for benefits? Make sure you have these items ready.

In order to pay higher than the minimum weekly benefit amount on PUA, if you were self-employed, a contract worker, employed by a non-profit organization, or a gig worker, you will have to provide:

1. Proof of your income for the calendar year of 2019 within 21 days of applying for PUA
2. Tax documents for 2019 are the best proof; however, we will also accept pay stubs, bank receipts, business records, ledgers, contracts, invoices, and billing statements.
What do I do next?
Already approved for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits

Eligible for regular UI benefits

Apply for UI benefits!
Online (preferred)
WYUI.wyo.gov
Phone: (307) 473-3789

No need to reach out, but continue to certify weekly claims

Not traditionally eligible for UI benefits

Exhausted UI benefits after July 1, 2019

QUALIFIED BASED ON WAGES EARNED

NOT ELIGIBLE FOR UI

Apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

ELIGIBLE

If otherwise eligible, receive UI or PUA benefits for up to 26 weeks (plus up to 13 weeks of PEUC, if applicable)

Plus an additional $600 per week available through July 25, 2020

Up to 13 weeks of Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
Additional $600 per week available through July 25, 2020
Visit wyui.wyo.gov

If you need to file for PUA or PEUC, please monitor wyomingworkforce.org for updates. Those programs are not available yet in WYUI.

You can apply online or by phone. However, call volumes are high right now and applying online will be faster.
If your last name begins with A-M, telephone claims can be filed on Monday, Wednesday, or before noon on Friday.

If your last name begins with N-Z, telephone claims can be filed on Tuesday, Thursday, or after noon on Friday.

Please call (307) 473-3789 during your designated times above.
WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER, WYOMING!