

# Applying for Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)

Administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity



## What is Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation?

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) is a federal CARES Act program administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) that allows up to an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits to the end of state Reemployment Assistance benefits. This means, eligible claimants may collect unemployment benefits for a longer period of time than under normal circumstances. PEUC will provide individuals with **up to** \$275 per week in benefits in addition to the \$600 through Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), in weekly benefits. The additional \$600 through FPUC applies only to weeks of unemployment beginning March 29, 2020 and ends with the week ending July 25, 2020.

## Eligibility Requirements

### You may be eligible for PEUC if:

- The balance of your current Reemployment Assistance claim is expired or exhausted and you are still unemployed.
- You have a Reemployment Assistance claim that expired after July 1, 2019.

## Reminder

Your Reemployment Assistance claim will then be determined for eligibility. If your state Reemployment Assistance benefits have been exhausted, you will then be prompted to file a PEUC application in CONNECT for up to an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits.

All claimants participating in PEUC will still be required to claim weeks on a biweekly basis certifying that they remain unemployed and are able and available for work during the weeks they are receiving PEUC. The first week a claimant can be eligible for this benefit is the week beginning March 29, 2020, and the last payable week is the week ending May 29, 2021.

## How to Apply

1. After you receive the invitation to apply for PEUC, log-in to CONNECT.
2. On the left side click the link 'Apply for PEUC Benefits' hyperlink.
3. Complete the responses in the PEUC – Initial Questions section at the top of the screen.
4. Click the checkboxes for Payment Information, Tax Withholding Information and the Certifications at the bottom of the screen and click Submit.
5. The application has been submitted.

Remember: You will need to check back in CONNECT regularly to respond to any requests for additional information. You will need to log-in to CONNECT every two weeks to request your benefits.

If your most recent claim is expired, you may need to complete a state Reemployment Assistance Application prior to receiving the PEUC link.

# Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) FAQs

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## How do I know if I am eligible?

PEUC is available for Floridians who have exhausted their regular state or Federal Reemployment Assistance benefits or their benefit year expired after July 1, 2019. Floridians will need to apply for PEUC benefits once the balance of their current claim is exhausted. Floridians who have already exhausted their benefits or have a Reemployment Assistance claim that expired after July 1, 2019, will also have to apply. The Department of Economic Opportunity will provide a notice to individuals who have exhausted their benefits or have an expired claim after July 1, 2019, detailing the instructions on how to apply for PEUC benefits.

## I lost my job before COVID-19 and I am almost out of weeks, but I still can't find work and my employer has not reopened yet. Am I eligible?

If you are currently receiving regular Reemployment Assistance benefits and you are still unemployed after you have exhausted your benefits, you may be eligible for PEUC.

## I am scared to return to work due to COVID-19, but I am about to exhaust my benefits. Am I eligible for PEUC?

To be eligible for PEUC, you must meet the eligibility requirements under state law and the CARES Act.

## How much funding will I receive?

Floridians may be eligible for up to \$275 (+ \$600 through FPUC) in weekly benefits. Note that the additional \$600 in FPUC applies only to weeks of unemployment beginning March 29, 2020 and ends with the week ending July 25, 2020.

## I am currently receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). Am I eligible for PEUC?

To be eligible for PUA, an individual must not be eligible for other state or federal unemployment programs. This means that if you are eligible for PEUC, you must first exhaust those benefits before you can be eligible for PUA. Individuals can only receive benefits from one unemployment program at a time with the exception of FPUC.

## I was receiving unemployment last year, but I used all of my eligible weeks. Would I be able to benefit from PEUC?

It is possible, so long as you continue to experience unemployment and meet the eligibility requirements under state law and the CARES Act. Individuals who are notified of their potential PEUC eligibility may apply for PEUC through CONNECT.