

# Federal Lost Wages Assistance Program FAQs

Administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity



## What is the Federal Lost Wages Assistance Program?

The Federal Lost Wages Assistance program (LWA) is a federal program provided to states through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). If the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO) application to participate in the LWA program is approved, the state of Florida will provide eligible Floridians who have a weekly benefit amount of at least \$100 in an eligible state or Federal Reemployment Assistance program and whose unemployment has been disrupted by COVID-19, an additional \$300 per week for four weeks. Payments may be retroactive to the weeks ending August 1, 2020- August 22, 2020.

## How do I know if I am eligible?

Floridians who are eligible for state or federal Reemployment Assistance benefits, are unemployed or partially unemployed due to COVID-19 and have a weekly benefit amount of at least \$100 in a state or Federal Reemployment Assistance program may be eligible to receive the additional \$300 LWA benefits. This includes individuals receiving:

- State Reemployment Assistance, including Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) and Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service members (UCX);
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC);
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA);
- Extended Benefits (EB);
- Short-Time Compensation (STC); or
- Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA)

**Note:** If a claimant is not eligible for the underlying Reemployment Assistance program, the claimant will not be eligible for LWA.

## Where do the additional LWA funds come from?

The LWA program is authorized by President Trump's memorandum and is provided to states from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) disaster relief fund. DEO is responsible for administering the LWA benefits to eligible Floridians.

## How long will LWA funds be available?

The state of Florida has received guidance from FEMA and the U.S. Department of Labor indicating that states should be able to receive approximately three weeks of benefit payments for eligible claimants. This program is available to eligible Floridians for four weeks, the week ending August 1, 2020 through the week ending August 22, 2020.

## How long will it take for me to receive the LWA funds?

LWA benefits are issued to eligible claimants through direct deposit or paper check after claimants request their benefit payments. A paper check is issued if the payment method selected is debit card. It is important that claimants continue requesting benefit payments on their claim to help process payments on their account. **To ensure payments are received as quickly as possible, DEO highly recommends Reemployment Assistance claimants select direct deposit as their preferred method to receive benefit payments. For those who will receive a paper check, it is important that the claimant verify their mailing address is correct. More information about how to update your banking information or mailing address can be found [here](#).**