



UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)

S.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT & WORKFORCE



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PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Unemployment Insurance for those who have exhausted their UI Benefits.

What are the eligibility requirements of PEUC?

To be eligible for benefits under the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program, individuals must:

- Have exhausted all regular unemployment insurance benefit payments.
- Be able and available for work
- Be registered with SCWOS (job search portal) <https://jobs.scworks.org/vosnet/Default.aspx>. You do not have to complete job searches during State of Emergency declared by the governor, but you must be registered.
- Report any covered earnings earned during the week being claimed. Covered earnings includes, but is not limited to, wages, paid sick time, vacation pay, and holiday pay.

Those not eligible for Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation include individuals who:

- Have the ability to telework with pay and would still be working substantially the same number of hours and be receiving the same pay.
- Are receiving paid sick leave or other paid leave benefits and those benefits would exceed their weekly amount of PEUC.

Where can I find the PEUC application?

Sign into your MyBenefits portal online at dew.sc.gov and click on the “Apply for Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation” link to apply. Depending on when you exhausted your benefits, you may see a link that says, “File a New Unemployment Insurance Claim.” Federal guidelines require you to file a separate claim for PEUC to receive these benefits. You will not automatically receive PEUC when you exhaust regular state unemployment insurance benefits.

How do I know if I’m eligible or not to apply for PEUC?

If you are not eligible for PEUC, you will not see the “Apply for Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation” link in your online account.

I am about to exhaust my 20 weeks of state unemployment benefits. Will I automatically roll into PEUC? Or how do I apply for PEUC?

Federal guidelines require you to file a separate claim for PEUC to receive these benefits. You will not automatically receive PEUC when you exhaust regular state unemployment insurance benefits.

When you sign into your MyBenefits portal online at dew.sc.gov, you will see an “Apply for Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation” link or, depending on when you exhausted your benefits, you may see a link that says, “File a New Unemployment Insurance Claim” instead of a link to file your Weekly Certification. Click on the link to proceed with your claim.



If you are not eligible for PEUC, you will not see the “Apply for Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation” link in your online account.

I already exhausted my 20 weeks of state unemployment benefits. How do I apply for PEUC?

If you exhausted your state unemployment insurance benefits on or after July 6, 2019, and may be eligible for PEUC, you will receive an email notification from the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW). Sign into your MyBenefits portal online at dew.sc.gov and click on the “Apply for Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation” link to file your claim.

Federal guidelines require you to file a separate claim for PEUC to receive these benefits. You will not automatically receive PEUC when you exhaust regular state unemployment insurance benefits.

If you are not eligible for PEUC, you will not see the “Apply for Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation” link in your online account.

I’m an independent contractor/self-employed worker and am not eligible for regular state unemployment benefits. Can I receive PEUC?

No. PEUC is an extension of regular state unemployment insurance benefits. Independent contractors and self-employed workers who do not qualify for state unemployment benefits may be eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

When should I expect payment for PEUC?

If you have just exhausted your 20 weeks of regular unemployment benefits, file your claim for PEUC and complete your Weekly Certification. If you’re approved for PEUC, you should continue receiving benefits for all eligible weeks.

If you previously exhausted your 20 weeks of regular unemployment benefits and have worked since then, your last employer is given, by law, 10 days to respond to DEW about your PEUC claim. No payment will be released until after this 10-day period. If there are no issues with your claim, it will usually take approximately 14 days from the time you file your claim to receive your first payment, but for more complex claims it could take longer to process and issue a decision. During this time you should continue to file your weekly certifications online through your MyBenefits portal online at dew.sc.gov.

Will PEUC be paid retroactively?

Yes, we will apply PEUC to the first week you became eligible to receive those benefits. PEUC is available for weeks of benefits ending April 4 through Dec. 26, 2020.

How much will I be paid for PEUC?

Because PEUC is an extension of state unemployment insurance benefits, your weekly amount will be the same as what you received for state unemployment insurance.

In South Carolina, the maximum weekly benefit for PEUC is \$326 per week for up to 13 weeks. For weeks ending April 4 through July 25, people receiving PEUC will automatically receive an additional \$600 a week in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation.



Am I eligible for PEUC if I am working reduced hours?

If you're working reduced hours, you may still be eligible for unemployment benefits. However, the amount you earn could affect your weekly benefit amount.

You must report the money you earn when filing your Weekly Certification for unemployment. You can earn up to 25% of your weekly benefit amount without it counting against your weekly benefit. Earnings over that amount are deducted from your weekly benefits.

For example: If your weekly benefit amount is \$326, you can earn up to \$81.50 a week (25% of \$326) and receive the full \$326 in benefits. Every dollar you earn over \$81.50 will be deducted from the \$326. If you earn \$100 a week, your weekly benefit will be \$307.50. If you report earnings equal to or higher than your WBA, the earnings allowance is not considered and you are ineligible for excess earnings for the week.

I exhausted my regular state unemployment insurance and have been receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). What should I do when PEUC is available?

Some people who exhausted their state unemployment benefits began receiving PUA before the implementation of PEUC. According to federal guidelines, a person who is eligible for PEUC is required to move into that program once it is available.

When you sign into your MyBenefits portal online at dew.sc.gov, you should see a link to "Apply for Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation" instead of a link to complete your Weekly Certification. Click on the link to file your claim for PEUC.

Federal guidelines require you to file a separate claim for PEUC to receive these benefits. You will not automatically receive PEUC when you exhaust regular state unemployment insurance benefits.

When does the PEUC program expire?

The PEUC program is set to expire claim week ending December 26, 2020. However, please keep in mind that the weekly FPUC payment (\$600) will stop after claim week ending July 25, 2020. After this date, eligible claimants will only receive a weekly benefit amount.

CHART: Unemployment Insurance *Guide to the CARES Act*

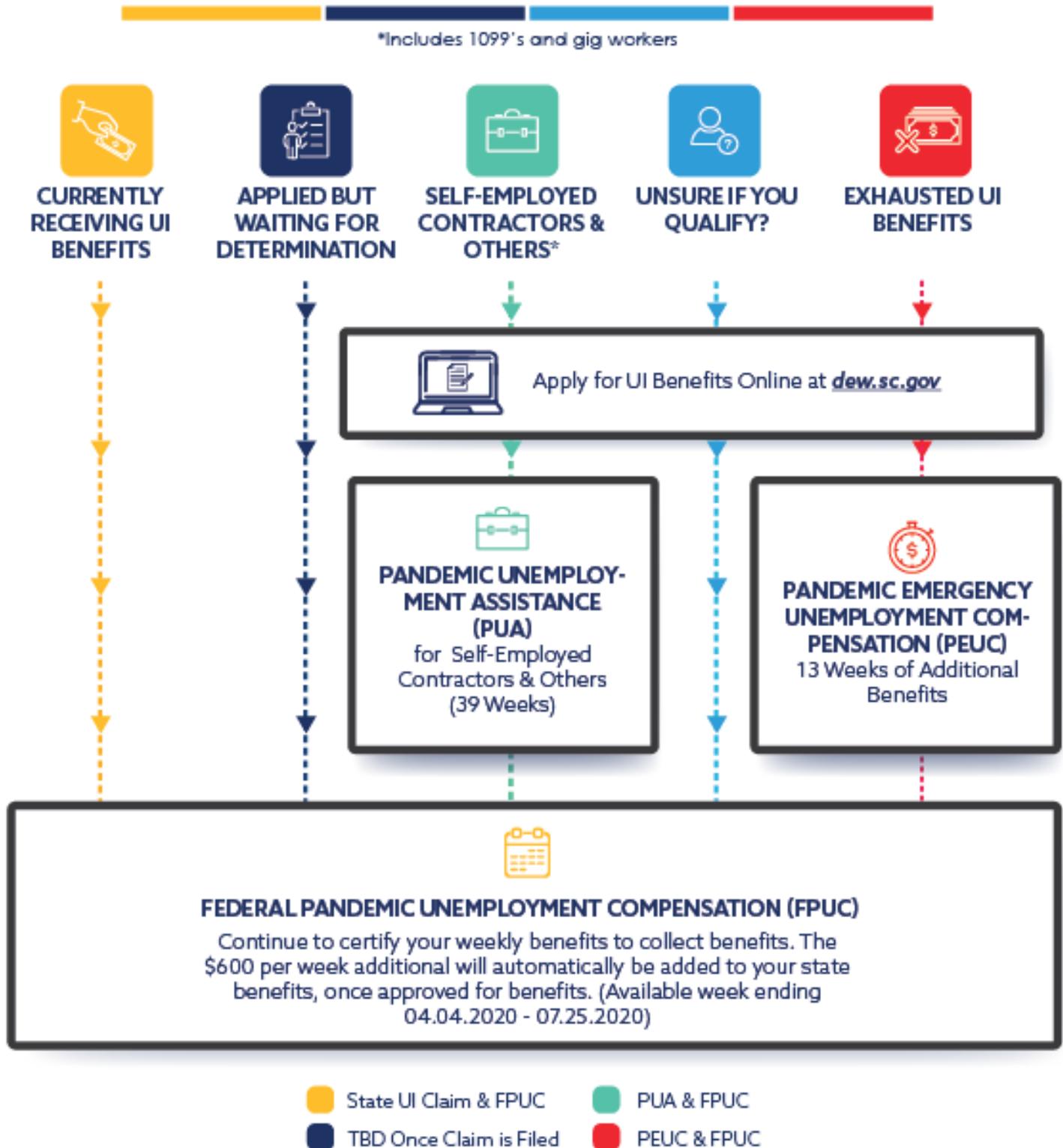


CHART: Comparison of **BENEFIT PROGRAMS**

	SC Unemployment Insurance	SC Extended Benefits	\$600 (Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation - FPUC)	Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)	Benefits for Self-Employed and those not Eligible for UI (Pandemic Unemployment Assistance - PUA)
WHO IS THIS FOR?	Unemployed workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own.	Individuals who have exhausted regular UI benefits during periods of high unemployment - triggered by SC law.	Individuals receiving regular UI, EB, PUA, or PEUC.	Individuals who remain unemployed after UI is no longer available.	Individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost as a direct result of COVID-19 and are not eligible for regular UI, EB, or PEUC, including exhaustees.
WHO DOES THIS SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDE?	Individuals who are unable to work or those who do not have a recent earnings history.				Excludes individuals able to telework with pay or individuals receiving paid leave.
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unemployed through no fault of their own; 2. Able, available, and actively seeking work; 3. Has registered for work with SCWOS; 4. Has not earned excess wages; and 5. Has not refused work. 	If available, Extended Benefits may start after an individual exhausts other UI benefits.	Individuals must have an active benefit claim under state or federal law.	Individuals must have exhausted state benefits or the benefit year has ended, and the individual is not currently eligible for UI.	Individuals must provide self-certification that the individual is otherwise able and available except that the individual is unable to work because of COVID-19.
MONETARY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT	Must have earned at least \$4,455 in covered employment during their base period. The base period is either the four oldest of the last five completed calendar quarters or the last four completed calendar quarters. Additionally, the total amount of wages in the base period must be at least 1.5 times the wages earned in the highest earning quarter.		Must meet state minimum monetary requirements to establish a claim.	Must meet state minimum monetary eligibility requirements to establish a claim.	Similar manner to regular state UI benefits. Self-employed must provide information to establish eligibility.
AMOUNT RECEIVED	Between \$42 and \$326.	Between \$42 and \$326.	\$600 per week in addition to regular benefit amount.	Weekly benefit amount from the prior benefit year plus the \$600 FPUC payment.	Weekly benefit amount under state UI law plus the \$600 FPUC payment.
FUNDING	State (the UI trust fund is comprised of taxes SC employers pay on their payroll).	Federally funded (authorized under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act through 12/31/20).	100% federally funded.	100% federally funded.	100% federally funded.
DURATION	Up to 20 weeks of full UI benefits.	Additional 10 weeks of UI benefits.		Additional 13 weeks of benefits.	39 weeks of benefits total, including regular UI and EB weeks.
TIMEFRAME			Effective from the claim week ending April 4, 2020 through the claim week ending July 25, 2020.	Effective from the claim week ending April 4, 2020 through the claim week ending December 26, 2020.	Effective for the claim week ending February 8, 2020 through the claim week ending December 26, 2020.