

Applying for Unemployment Benefits online? Make sure you do it right.

❖ Read this only if you live in the state of Washington.

Should I read this?

If you are applying for or have applied for unemployment benefits through the state of Washington's Employment Security Division (ESD), read this.

What will I learn from reading this?

You will learn how to make sure ESD will decide if you are eligible to get Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) as well as regular Unemployment Insurance (UI).

Why wouldn't I be eligible to get regular UI?

It depends. Not everyone is eligible to get regular UI. You will not be eligible to get UI if, for example, you were self-employed (you worked for yourself, not for an employer), or an independent contractor. **But you may still be eligible to get other types of unemployment benefits!**

Why do I need to know this?

A software bug has been keeping some people applying for unemployment benefits from applying for (and getting) PUA benefits. You may not be considered for benefits you could be getting.

Doesn't ESD automatically determine my eligibility for all types of unemployment benefits at once?

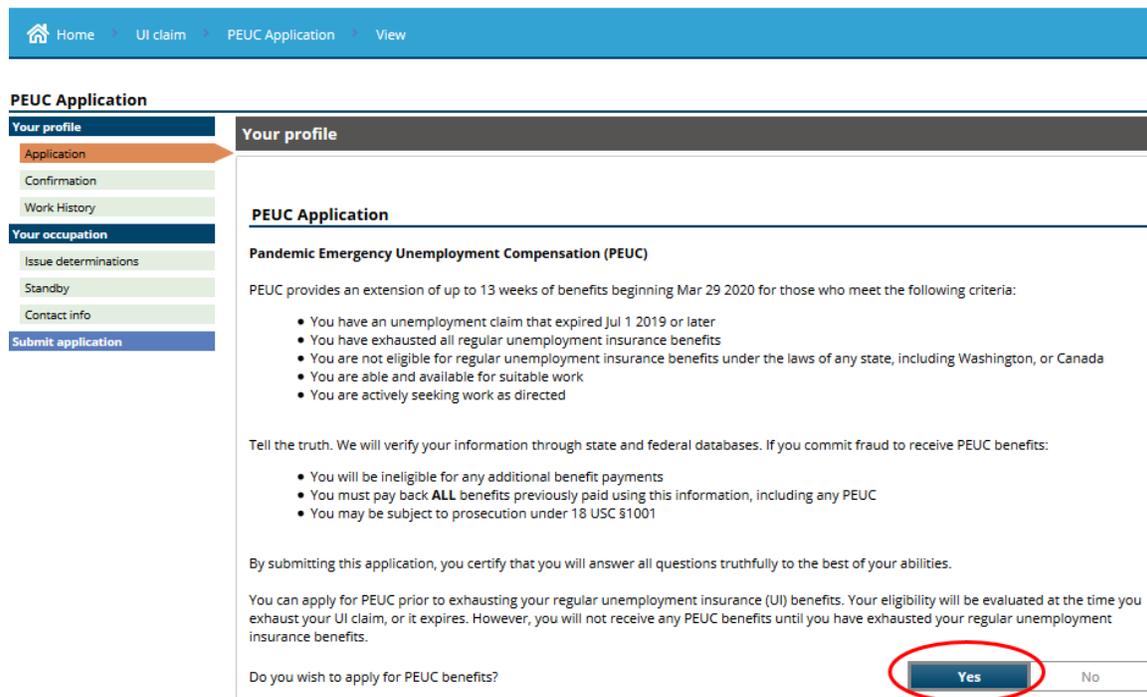
No. If you are denied on your claim for regular Unemployment Insurance, they do **not** automatically decide your eligibility for PUA. You actively need to apply for PUA through your SecureAccess Washington (SAW)/e-services account.

However, the software bug keeps you from getting the option to apply online for PUA benefits.

Instead, what you may see in your SAW account is an option to apply for Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC). This federal program extends unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks.

So how do I apply for PUA benefits?

Click on YES to apply for PEUC.



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PEUC Application

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Application

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PEUC Application

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)

PEUC provides an extension of up to 13 weeks of benefits beginning Mar 29 2020 for those who meet the following criteria:

- You have an unemployment claim that expired Jul 1 2019 or later
- You have exhausted all regular unemployment insurance benefits
- You are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits under the laws of any state, including Washington, or Canada
- You are able and available for suitable work
- You are actively seeking work as directed

Tell the truth. We will verify your information through state and federal databases. If you commit fraud to receive PEUC benefits:

- You will be ineligible for any additional benefit payments
- You must pay back **ALL** benefits previously paid using this information, including any PEUC
- You may be subject to prosecution under 18 USC §1001

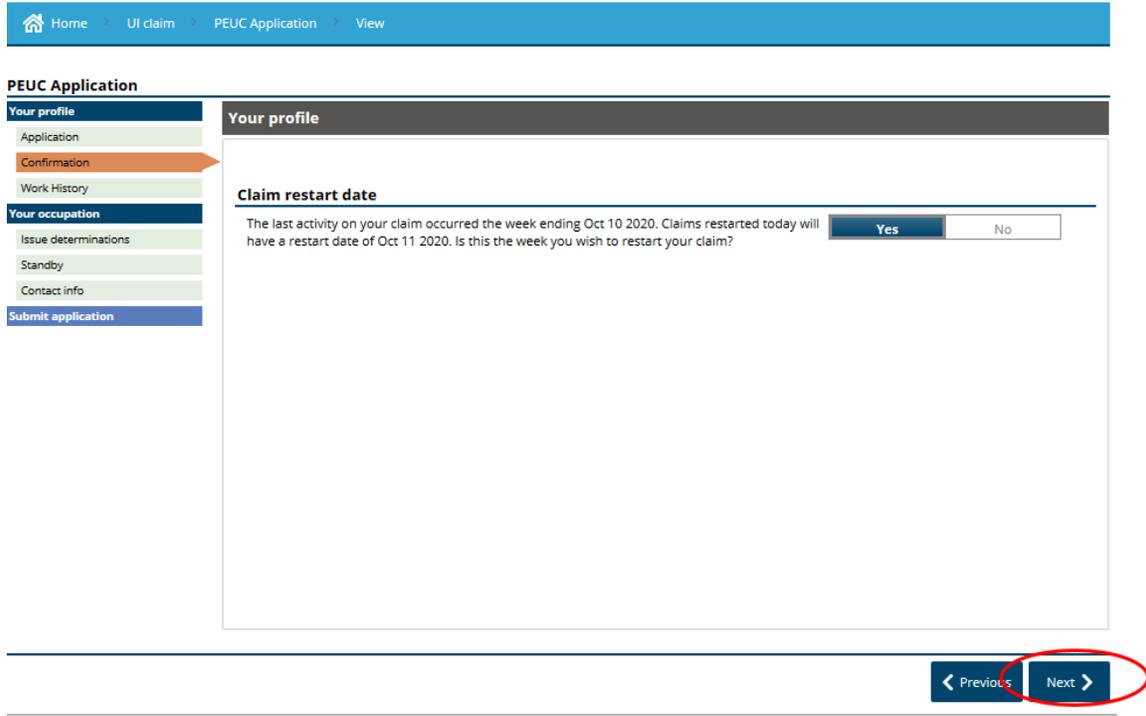
By submitting this application, you certify that you will answer all questions truthfully to the best of your abilities.

You can apply for PEUC prior to exhausting your regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Your eligibility will be evaluated at the time you exhaust your UI claim, or it expires. However, you will not receive any PEUC benefits until you have exhausted your regular unemployment insurance benefits.

Do you wish to apply for PEUC benefits?

Yes No

You will get a warning that going on with the PEUC request will “restart the claim.”



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Claim restart date

The last activity on your claim occurred the week ending Oct 10 2020. Claims restarted today will have a restart date of Oct 11 2020. Is this the week you wish to restart your claim?

Yes No

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Do not be concerned. This will **not** re-set the claims process. **You will not** go to the back of the line for benefits. Go ahead and click NEXT to apply for PEUC. Answer the questions that follow.

ESD will then decide if you are eligible to get PEUC **and PUA.**

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- ❖ If it turns out that you can get PEUC and/or PUA, **you also will be eligible to get an additional \$600 per week** in Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC) for any weeks you were unemployed between April 4 and July 25, 2020.
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How soon should I do this?

PEUC and PUA are available until September 4, 2021. But you should still apply as soon as you can.

What if I still have questions after reading this?

Talk to a lawyer:

The **Unemployment Law Project (ULP)** may be able to help you. Call them today:

- (509) 624-9178 or toll-free at (800) 940-9178 (Spokane)
- (206) 441-9178 or toll free at 1-888-441-9178 (Seattle)

Or, if you think you have a low income, call the **Northwest Justice Project's CLEAR Hotline** at 1-888-201-1014 weekdays between 9:15 am - 12:15 pm.

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