

What Are Extended Benefits?

Extended Benefits (EB) are additional unemployment compensation (UC) benefits payable to qualified workers when an "Extended Benefit Period" occurs in Pennsylvania. EB is payable only for weeks of unemployment during an EB period, and is available only to claimants who meet the EB eligibility criteria, including additional eligibility provisions that do not apply to regular UC.

When Does an EB Period Begin and End?

An EB period begins in Pennsylvania with the third week after the unemployment rate reaches a certain level prescribed by law.

The current EB period in PA began May 3, 2020, but benefits are not payable until after PEUC (Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation) has exhausted. This results in week ending July 4, 2020, being the first potential payable week of EB. An EB period ends with the third week after the unemployment rate declines to a certain level prescribed by law. However, an EB period must last at least 13 consecutive weeks. A subsequent EB period may not begin before the 14th week after the end of a prior EB period.

How Do I Apply for EB?

If you collect the maximum amount of PEUC that you are eligible to receive, an EB Notice of Financial Determination will be mailed to you. If you do not receive your Financial Determination within ten days after you receive your final PEUC payment, call the UC Service Center at 1-888-313-7284.

Am I Eligible for EB?

You may be eligible for EB if:

- You are totally or partially unemployed.
- The total amount of wages in the base year of your most recent UC claim equals or exceeds one and one-half (1-½) times the amount of wages in the calendar quarter of your base year when you were paid the most wages.

- You received the maximum amount of regular UC you were eligible to receive on your most recent UC claim, or your most recent UC benefit year has ended.
- You have received the maximum amount of PEUC that you were eligible to receive.
- You are ineligible for any other UC benefits, including PEUC, under any state or federal law, and you are not claiming benefits under the UC law of Canada or the Virgin Islands.
- You satisfy requirements of the Pennsylvania UC Law that apply to regular UC, such as, you must be able and available for work and you must not be disqualified for willful misconduct. See pamphlet UCP-1 for full regular UC eligibility information.

Does EB Have Special Disqualifications?

If you are disqualified from receiving EB because you did not accept suitable work, or were discharged or voluntarily quit, the disqualification remains in effect until you have been employed in each of four subsequent weeks and earned remuneration of not less than four times your EB weekly benefit amount.

How Much EB Will I Receive?

Your EB weekly benefit amount is the same as the weekly benefit amount on your most recent, regular UC claim, including any dependents' allowance. The total amount of EB that you may receive is 50% of the amount of regular UC you were financially eligible to receive on your most recent claim. If you were financially eligible for 26 weeks of regular UC, you may receive up to 13 weeks of EB, and if you were financially eligible for 18 weeks of regular UC, you may receive up to 9 weeks of EB. However, EB may only be paid for weeks ending during an EB period.

Also, if you are entitled to Trade Readjustment Allowances, you may receive fewer weeks of EB.

How Do I File Claims for EB?

PA Teleclaims (PAT) filing system is not available for EB. You can file your EB claim through the Internet claim system or a paper EB claim form for each week that you wish to claim. Complete the claim form accurately and thoroughly and follow the mailing instructions. If you worked or missed work during a week you are claiming, report both the work and missed work on the Internet claim system or the paper EB claim form and disclose all earnings for the week, including holiday and vacation pay.

If you need to file by mail (USPS), call the UC Customer Service line at 888-313-7284 or mail a request to:

Dept. of Labor & Industry
Harrisburg UCSC, Room 1501
651 Boas St. Harrisburg, PA, 17121

When requesting paper mail claim forms include your full name, address and the last 4 digits of your social security number.

How Will I Be Paid?

EB is paid either by direct deposit or debit card. The payment method that was used for your most recent UC or PEUC claim will carry over to your EB claim.

If you receive payment by debit card, and want to switch to direct deposit, you must complete a direct deposit form online. You will need your debit card to access EB benefits that are issued before direct deposit is activated. If you no longer have your debit card, call debit card customer service toll-free at 888-233-5916. If you receive payment by direct deposit, and want to switch to debit card, you must complete an online form to stop direct deposit.

You may submit requests to start, stop or change direct deposit online at **www.uc.pa.gov**, or you may request a direct deposit form by calling the UC Service Center at 888-313-7284.

What if I Live in Another State That is Not in an EB Period?

If you are a resident of another state for which an EB period is not in effect, you may only receive EB for two weeks of total or partial unemployment.

Notice of Your Job Prospects Classification

If you refuse a referral to an opportunity for suitable work or refuse an offer of suitable work, you may be disqualified from receiving EB. What is "suitable" work for you depends on whether your prospects for obtaining work in your customary occupation within a reasonably short period of time are "GOOD" or "NOT GOOD." Generally, EB claimants do not have a likelihood of resuming their customary work in a short period of time. For this reason, **your job prospects are classified initially as "NOT GOOD."** While your job prospects classification is "NOT GOOD," you must accept a referral to any work and accept an offer of any work that (1) is within your capabilities, (2) is offered to you in writing or is listed with the PA CareerLink®, (3) pays at least the State or Federal minimum wage, whichever is higher, and (4) pays more than your EB weekly benefit rate plus the amount of supplemental unemployment benefits (SUB) payable to you (if any).

If you reasonably expect to find work in your customary occupation within four weeks, have a definite offer of employment in your customary occupation with a specific starting date, or have a specific recall date from your employer, you may qualify to have your job prospects reclassified as "good." You should contact the UC Service Center and the PA CareerLink®. If the PA CareerLink® reclassifies your job prospects as "GOOD," you must accept a referral to or an offer of work that is suitable for regular unemployment compensation (UC) claimants under Section 4(t) of the Pennsylvania UC Law.

Can You Help Me Find a Job?

PA CareerLink® can be an asset in achieving your employment goals. PA CareerLink® offers a wide variety of employment and training services across the Commonwealth. You may do your own employment search or be assisted by trained staff to aid in your search. You can make your resume available to employers while you gather valuable information on educational, training and related services.

PA CareerLink® services are available online at www.pacareerlink.state.pa.us, or visit your nearest PA CareerLink® office.

What Are My Appeal Rights?

Whenever you receive a determination for EB, you have the same right to appeal as you did under the regular UC program. Your appeal rights are explained in your Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Handbook.

Penalties

If you receive EB that you are not eligible to receive, you may be required to repay the benefits, plus interest. The Pennsylvania UC Law contains civil and criminal penalties for knowingly making false statements or knowingly withholding facts to obtain benefits. Federal law also contains criminal penalties for knowingly and willfully concealing facts or making false representations.

Other Questions?

Additional information is located on our Website at www.uc.pa.gov. You can also call the UC Service Center at 888-313-7284.

Unemployment Compensation Extended Benefits (EB) Period Beginning May 2020

Information and Instructions for Pennsylvania EB Claimants

This pamphlet explains your rights and responsibilities for EB under state and federal law. It will answer many questions you may have about EB. This pamphlet is not, however, an official statement of law and does not have the force of law or regulations. **PLEASE READ ALL INFORMATION CAREFULLY.**



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY
OFFICE OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS POLICY
www.uc.pa.gov

*Auxiliary aids and services are available
upon request to individuals with disabilities.
Equal Opportunity Employer/Program*