

Out of Work? New COVID-19 Unemployment benefits may help.

COVID-19 Updates: May 7, 2020

Did you lose income because of the COVID-19? Apply for NEW unemployment benefits!

What are unemployment benefits?

Unemployment benefits are payments to certain workers who have lost a job. New laws help workers who lost jobs because of COVID-19.

Who can get unemployment benefits?

More people can get unemployment benefits now. If your employer cut your hours or you were laid off because of COVID-19, or if you are unable to work due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you may qualify and should apply.

How do I apply?

You can apply online at <https://uinteract.labor.mo.gov/> or by calling the St. Louis Regional Claims Center at 314.340.4950. Before you get started, you will need to have the following information:

- Your Social Security Number;
- Your weekly gross earnings;
- The names and addresses of your employers for the last 18 months, the dates you worked for each of employer and the hours you worked each week and your hourly pay for each employer;
- Your bank account information, including routing number and account number for direct deposit of benefits.

If you are having difficulty applying, you may contact Legal Services at 314.534.4200 or go to www.lsem.org/get-help/now.org to see if you qualify for assistance.

What if I don't have a bank account?

You may still be eligible for unemployment benefits. However, direct deposit is a lot faster than getting payment in the mail.

What if I worked for myself?

Under the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (“PUA”) program, people who are self-employed, and normally would not qualify for unemployment benefits, can now get help. This includes people who cleaned houses, drove for ride share companies, or worked without having a formal employer.

In order to receive these benefits, you must first file an “Unemployment Claim” at <https://uinteract.labor.mo.gov/> or by calling the St. Louis Regional Claims Center at 314.340.4950.

After filing an initial unemployment claim, you will receive instructions from the Missouri Department of

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**More COVID-19 information & resources available at:
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Labor (“MO DOL”) on how to apply for PUA. Please note that your notice from the MO DOL will indicate that you do not qualify for unemployment benefits; however, you may still be eligible for PUA.

In order to receive PUA, your inability to work must be related to COVID-19. In order for the MO DOL to calculate your weekly benefit amount, you may need to provide additional information and documentation. Check <https://labor.mo.gov/coronavirus/> or call the St. Louis Regional Claims Center at 314.340.4950 for more information.

Does it matter how long I was working before I lost my job?

Not necessarily. To be eligible for unemployment benefits you need to have earned a set amount within a certain time. If you apply in April 2020, they will look at your earnings from January 2019 through October 2019. If you did not earn the set amount, you may still qualify for PUA. Check <https://labor.mo.gov/unemployed-worker/> to learn more.

Does it matter how much I made?

For traditional unemployment benefits, yes.. Go to this website to learn more: <https://molabor.uservoice.com/knowledgebase/articles/282910>. However, if you did not earn the set amount, you may still qualify for PUA.

How much will I get each week?

It depends on your earnings. Use the calculator at <https://labor.mo.gov/DES/Claims/calculator> to get an estimate. People who receive unemployment or payment under PUA, will also get an extra \$600 per week until July 25, 2020 under the federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (“PUC”) program.

How long can I receive unemployment benefits?

You can receive regular unemployment benefits for up to 20 weeks per year. However, under the new Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (“PEUC”) program, you may receive an additional 13 weeks of benefits. If you already received 20 weeks of unemployment benefits in the past year, you may be eligible for additional unemployment benefits and should re-apply.

I had an account but I can't get in. What do I do?

Send an email to esuiclaims@labor.mo.gov. Be sure to send your name, phone number and the last four digits of your social security number. They can reset your account. It will take a few days.

How do I check on my application?

You can check two weeks after you apply. Go to <https://uinteract.labor.mo.gov>. You can also call the St. Louis Regional Claims Center at 314.340.4950 or email esuiclaims@labor.mo.gov.

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What if I get denied?

You can appeal. Legal Services can help! Call 314.534.4200 or go to www.lsem/get-help/now.org. Remember that if you do not qualify for unemployment benefits because you were self-employed or did not earn sufficient income, you may still qualify for PUA, and will receive further instruction from the MO DOL on how to apply. If you feel you are entitled to benefits under PUA, and are denied, you may appeal that decision as well.

More questions?

The Missouri Department of Labor has helpful information. Go to <https://labor.mo.gov> or email esuiclaims@labor.mo.gov. Be sure to send your **name and phone number**. You should get a response in a few days. In addition, you can contact Legal Services at 314.534.4200 or go to www.lsem/get-help/now.org.

LEGAL SERVICES OF EASTERN MISSOURI will be updating this page as new information is available.
Please check back for information about how we can help you with unemployment benefits.

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