

# Coronavirus Unemployment Benefit Provisions

The Coronavirus Relief, Aid and Economic Security (CARES) Act extends unemployment insurance benefits for qualified people, and provides up to thirty-nine (39) weeks of unemployment compensation to workers who would not normally qualify for unemployment, but whose ability to work has been directly impacted by COVID-19.

**People who are not eligible for regular unemployment payments under state or federal law, including the self-employed, people seeking part-time work, those who have used up their right to regular unemployment or extended benefits, or those with insufficient work history are now able to qualify for unemployment.**

In order to receive payments, people in this new group must self-certify why they would not normally qualify for unemployment benefits, and that the reasons for their unemployment are directly related to COVID-19. For those who are currently eligible for unemployment benefits under state or federal law, the CARES Act extends payments for up to thirteen (13) weeks beyond the normal deadline, as long as the recipients are actively seeking work.

**In most situations the amount of weekly unemployment compensation available to Californians equals the amount they would be entitled to under California unemployment insurance law, PLUS a flat sum of \$600 per week.**

[https://www.edd.ca.gov/about\\_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm](https://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm)

**Table 1—Summary of Unemployment Benefits Provided under the CARES Act**

Type of Worker Covered	Requirements	Weekly Benefits	Duration
<b>Group 1:</b> Workers Eligible for unemployment insurance benefits under state or federal law.	Existing requirements under state law. For more information, see: <a href="https://www.edd.ca.gov/unemployment/eligibility.htm">https://www.edd.ca.gov/unemployment/eligibility.htm</a>	<b>Min: \$640</b> —Minimum allowable benefit under state law (\$40) + \$600 <b>Max: \$1,050</b> —Maximum allowable benefit under state law (\$450) + \$600	Up to 39 weeks: Up to 26 weeks in California, plus up to 13 additional weeks if actively seeking work <b>Waiting Period:</b> No
<b>Group 2:</b> Self-employed; Seeking part-time work; Insufficient work history; Otherwise ineligible for unemployment; Exhausted unemployment benefits <b>Excluded:</b> Workers with paid telework or paid leave	Worker must self-certify that they fit within one of the categories, and are able to work and available for work, except they are unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable to work for one of the listed COVID-19-related reasons. <sup>1</sup>	<b>Min:</b> Minimum Federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance + \$600 . <b>Max:</b> \$1,050—Match of maximum allowable benefit under state law (\$450) + \$600	Up to 39 weeks, including any weeks for which regular unemployment payments were received Total benefit period: January 27, 2020 through December 31, 2020 <b>Waiting Period:</b> No

**Additional information regarding limitations, filing claims and withholding on the back**

**Limitations:**

- The additional \$600 per week for all workers is only available for the weeks from March 29, 2020 through July 25, 2020
- As of May 7, 2020, EDD has not yet implemented the additional 13 weeks of coverage for workers eligible for unemployment (Group 1)
- Group 1 workers who exhausted their unemployment benefits between February 2, 2020 and March 21, 2020 may be eligible for PUA, and should contact EDD for more information

**Filing Claims:**

- In most instances, Group 1 and Group 2 workers may file claims online at [https://www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/UI\\_Online.htm](https://www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/UI_Online.htm)
- Workers will not have to certify or recertify for unemployment for weeks ending in March 14, 2020 through May 9, 2020
- Claims may be filed retroactively for weeks within the applicable time period(s)
- Claims processing times vary depending on the type of claim and amount of information required

**Withholding for Child Support:**

- The entire sum of benefits received in any week (including the additional \$600) is subject to 25% withholding

**Additional Resources:**

- EDD's Worker Resources page: [https://www.edd.ca.gov/about\\_edd/coronavirus-2019/workers.htm](https://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019/workers.htm)
- Guidance on filing unemployment insurance claims: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qUFxWEaHuM&feature=youtu.be>
- Guide to applying for unemployment benefits: <https://unemployment.edd.ca.gov/guide/benefits>
- For general unemployment insurance questions, call: 1-833-978-2511 (8 a.m. to 8 p.m, Monday through Sunday)