

STATUS UPDATE ON FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS (4/28/2020)

Congress enacted three new federal unemployment programs under the CARES Act on March 27th. MDOL knows everyone is impatient for news of these programs. Yet, implementing these new federal UI programs is a multi-step, state-federal partnership. The process involves receiving final federal guidance, gathering technical requirements, software development, system testing, user acceptance testing, and then finally, implementation and deployment. Status update:

1. **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC): ROLLED OUT APRIL 16.** The program provides an additional \$600 weekly benefit to those already receiving regular unemployment.
2. **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA): APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED STARTING MAY 1.** The program provides unemployment coverage for the self-employed and others not normally covered by unemployment insurance. People whose claim doesn't require further review should begin receiving benefits within seven days from filing. All claims will be retroactive to the date of business closure or job separation provided on the application, back until March 15. More information on PUA and instructions on how to apply can be found on MDOL's website: <https://www.maine.gov/unemployment/pua/>.
3. **Pandemic Extended Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)** provides an additional up to 13 weeks of benefits to those who may have exhausted theirs. This program is not yet available. MDOL is at the guidance analysis stage for this final federal unemployment program having just received federal guidance two weeks ago.