

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN STATUS UPDATE

After approval by the House and Senate, the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* was signed into law by President Biden on Thursday, March 11, 2021, which avoided an expiration of federal programs previously slated to end on Saturday, March 13, 2021.

Here's an overview of how the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* will impact federal UI programs:

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)

The legislation extends the \$300 weekly supplemental payment (FPUC) for any claimant found eligible, on any active state or federal program, through September 4, 2021.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

PUA is applicable to self-employed, gig workers and those found not eligible for state UI.

- This bill extends the PUA program through September 4, 2021.
- The first payable week of PUA, under the extension, is claim week ending March 20, 2021.
- A claimant who exhausted PUA anytime before claim week ending March 20, 2021, will not be eligible for retroactive benefits.

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)

PEUC is applicable to those who previously exhausted their state UI claim.

- This legislation extends the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) through September 4, 2021.
- The first payable week of PEUC, under the extension, is claim week ending March 20, 2021.
- A claimant who exhausted PEUC anytime before claim week ending March 20, 2021, will not be eligible for retroactive benefits.

Because this bill is an extension of existing federal programs, we do not anticipate any new steps required by the claimant to continue to receive program benefits during their active benefit year. The only requirement will be to complete an initial claim if prompted by the claimant system (for those whose benefit year may have ended), continue certifying each week and identifying the COVID-19 related reason for unemployment for that claim week.

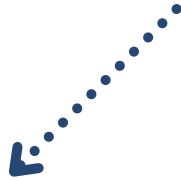
TIMING OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FROM BILL TO BENEFITS

To understand the process of how a legislative bill turns into a program, please review the steps listed below.



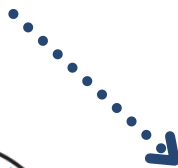
STEP 1

The Senate and House must both pass a bill for approval. Once passed by both houses of Congress, it goes to the President of the United States.



STEP 2

The president must sign the bill in order for it to become a federal law.



STEP 3

Congress provides the final approved document to the U.S. Department of Labor, and it must then be turned into actionable guidance for each state to accept and implement. Although there are no new federal programs to be implemented, we do anticipate receiving guidance from DOL.



STEP 4

Each state must review and apply the guidance from DOL and coordinate with their state law.



STEP 5

Each state agency must program the new guidance into the UI system to accept the new federal guidelines and program extensions.

DEW has implemented the extensions in the MyBenefits portal so there will be no interruption in benefits for eligible claimants. Claimants are paid one week in arrears. That means claimants will receive benefits for claim week ending March 13, 2021 (last week under previous legislation) after certifying during claim week ending March 20, 2021.