



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services



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Implications of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Expansion of Unemployment and Benefits

Key points:

- \$600 weekly benefit payment would be paid in addition to and at the same time as regular state or federal unemployment benefits. Up to 4 months (ending on or before July 31, 2020) for any worker eligible for state or federal unemployment compensation. No need to apply for this, these payments will automatically be issued.
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) is for workers who are not normally eligible for benefits including self-employed individuals, independent contractors, “gig economy” workers, and individuals who were unable to start a new job or contract due to the pandemic. Will also be eligible for the \$600 weekly benefit payment. Do not apply now; waiting on federal guidance from the Department of Labor.
- Thirteen (13) weeks of Federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation for workers who exhaust regular state benefits (16 weeks). This brings total to 29 weeks of benefits.
Note: Other states pay up to 26 weeks of regular benefits, bringing their total to 39 weeks.
- Federal Government will provide funds for the state extended benefits program and state Shared Work (short-time compensation) program.
- All federally funded. None of this money will come out of the state UI Trust Fund.

How we will accommodate the increase:

- DIS adding capacity to support systems, bringing ADWS employees working from home back in to work the Hotline and file claims.
- Looking to increase the number of staff filing claims over the phone (staff would take the calls coming in through the Hotline, and enter information provided by claimant straight into EZARC).
- DIS has a plan to add capacity to support the claims filing system(s) which should be fully implemented by this Wednesday.