

# Virtual Town Hall: PUA Extension

February 18, 2021

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## Income/ID

What documents will we need to prove our income and our identity?

***We've had a number of questions about submitting proof of employment for PUA claims. Below is some helpful information about providing proof of employment.***

***PLEASE NOTE: If you have already provided proof of employment documentation for round one of PUA, you do not need to provide it again. If you have not submitted proof of employment in the first round of PUA, you will need to do so.***

***Some examples of documentation which can be provided as proof of employment include: a 1040 Schedule C income tax return for the base period, pay check stubs, bank receipts, business records, ledgers, contracts, invoices and billing statements.***

***Any claimants who apply for a new PUA claim will have to submit documentation of employment or self-employment that demonstrates their attachment to the labor force within 21 days of applying (or being notified of the requirement, whichever is later).***

***In addition, the renewal of PUA requires proof of identity. We are programming a module in the system to verify identification. We will require two forms of identification such as a driver's license, birth certificate, social security card, state issued ID card, or passport.***

If my company I owned and was forced to close due to COVID-19 did not require filing a Schedule C form because it was an S-Corp company, what documentation from the 2019 tax return would work for verification?

***For S Corp companies, Form 1120S rather than Schedule C and the K-1 from your return may be used.***

***Some examples of other documentation which can be provided as proof of employment include: a 1040 Schedule C income tax return for the base period, pay check stubs, bank receipts, business records, ledgers, contracts, invoices and billing statements.***

How can I verify self employment when I have always been paid cash?

***Some examples of documentation which can be provided as proof of self employment include: a 1040 Schedule C income tax return for the base period, pay check stubs, bank receipts, business records, ledgers, contracts, invoices and billing statements.***

For an individual who was previously receiving PUA and now filing "Continued Claims" is it a given that "proof of wages / income verification" has been provided previously? Will the system say if anything is missing when filing a "Continued Claim"?

***Everyone has to submit income verification for the PUA program. Earlier in the program not everyone was required to.***

***If the claim is above \$193 per week, we have received some kind of documentation. However, the system will not prompt a claimant that something is missing. If you are***

***unsure if your income verification was sent the first time, it is recommended you submit it again.***

To clarify, if I already had a PUA claim that ended 12/27/20 the calculations will remain from my Schedule C for 2019. is that correct?

***Yes, correct.***

I've been in PUA since April, do you still need proof of income?

***Yes, for every PUA claim, we need verification of income.***

I have several customers that paid cash but I have copies of their invoices. I also have bank statements that can match. Will that count as verification?

***Yes, we can look at those. Wage records, ledgers, billing statements, banking statements can be used to verify wages. If this information is not available, we need proof that the claimant is connected to the workforce, such as state or federal employer identification numbers, business licenses, business receipts, written business plans, etc.***

Won't verifying everybody's ID and income verification slow everything down? how will we get paid by the end of next week if all this has to be verified?

***The faster we receive the proof of identity, the sooner we can approve applications. The links are in the application and will keep all materials in place.***

If we have 90 days to submit ID and Proof of income how will payments begin next week?

***You will be able to upload documentation with your PUA claim so the documentation will be readily available for the adjudication process.***

If your claim was not due to self employment, but another way you qualified, do you need to provide verification for that?

***All PUA claims require income verification. Many claims will have this verification, but others may not. It is best for claimants to call the Claims Center at 307-473-3789 to see what, if anything, is needed.***

The Federal Government has said publicly that the 193 minimum was supposed to be recalculated at a later date to reflect the actual amount each claimant was eligible for and then every State was instructed to investigate those and pay the claimants the difference they are owed asap. Is that happening? or do we need to request the investigation to correct the amount ourselves?

***The calculation is based on the amount you enter as net income earned in the base period on your initial PUA claim. You then have 21 days to provide proof of the net income. The weekly benefit amount will be adjusted using the proof you provide. If proof is not provided, the amount is recalculated to the \$193 amount. If you have not provided any proof, you must show attachment to the labor force by uploading documents such as state or federal employer identification numbers, business licenses, tax returns and business receipts. If you do not provide these documents, you are not eligible for PUA. Any benefits that were paid will be considered an overpayment you will be liable to repay.***

If our ID information was sent by FAX to the Agency, will that information be taken into consideration?

***Yes, but it would take a longer time to get it taken care of.***

Can I do the identity verification over my android phone?

***Yes, if you can upload from your android phone to the WYUI system.***

My claim was flagged for fraud last year and I had to bring in my identification to a workforce center to be viewed and faxed by them to verify my identity. So I would still need to upload those again?

***Yes, all claims need to show proof of ID.***

Does a sales tax license count as verification?

***You must show that you had some type of legitimate business during the calendar year 2020 if you have not filed for PUA previously. Additional proof of attachment to the workforce should be included such as state or federal employer numbers, business licenses, tax returns, or business receipts.***

If you had to quit your job which was verified by unemployment, will you need verification and what verification would you need?

***If the claimant was denied regular UI for a separation and put on PUA, those wages are on the system. We do not need proof.***

***If verification is necessary, pay check stubs, earnings and leave statements showing the employer's name and address, and W-2 forms may be used.***

If my company I owned and was forced to close due to COVID-19 did not require filing a Schedule C form because it was an S-Corp company, what documentation from the 2019 tax return would work for verification?

***Proof of employment includes, but is not limited to, paycheck stubs, earnings and leave statements showing the employer's name and address, and W-2 forms. Per USDOL, wage records already submitted to the Tax Division by the employer do not suffice. The claimant MUST send in proof of employment.***

***Proof of self-employment includes, but is not limited to, state or federal employer identification numbers, business licenses, tax returns, business receipts, and signed affidavits from persons verifying the individual's NET self-employment.***

***Proof of the planned commencement of employment includes, but is not limited to, letters offering employment, statements/affidavits by individuals (with name and contact information) verifying an offer of employment.***

***Proof of the planned commencement of self-employment includes, but is not limited to, business licenses, state or federal employer identification numbers, written business plans, or a lease agreement.***

***For S Corp companies, the Form 1120S rather than the Schedule C, and the K-1 from your return are acceptable.***

What if you don't have an income? How do I go about that?

***Proof of the planned commencement of self-employment includes, but is not limited to, business licenses, state or federal employer identification numbers, written business plans, or a lease agreement.***

For people who were self employed can they submit a 1099 or would you already have that information for the IRS?

***We do not have any information from the IRS. You will need to supply your own documentation. 1099s do not give the net income and cannot be used for income verification. Tax documents, including your 1040 Schedule C, are the simplest forms to use for income verification.***

So I know you mentioned this, but I'm not sure I'm clear. If we've been on PUA since March 2019 that means that we have already provided our tax returns for 2019. Since taxes haven't been filed for 2020, the 2019 taxes are all you need to start filling out these new 11 claims, correct?

***Correct, the 1040 Schedule C income tax return from the base period of 2019 is acceptable for continued PUA claims.***

The company I worked for closed because of COVID and I did not file taxes last year because I didn't earn enough. What do I need to do?

***You must provide pay check stubs or earnings and leave statements showing the employer's name and address and W-2 forms. If you do not think you can provide the income verification, please call the Claims Center at 307-473-3789.***

What year of the 1099 do we submit for proof of income?

***For continued or established PUA claims, you may submit your 1099 form from 2019.  
For new PUA claims, you will submit your 1099 from 2020.***

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## Back Pay

Are we eligible for the weeks of PUA that we've missed since Dec. 27?

***The PUA extension is valid beginning Dec. 27, 2020. Claimants who were eligible for any of the weeks after Dec. 27 may be eligible for back pay. The system can handle ten weeks of back claims for the PUA program, but anything beyond that will require a paper form to request the back pay. You will be able to file for ten weeks of back benefits with that initial claim. That will include the PUA benefits you qualify for, as well as the FPUC payment of \$300 per week on top of the PUA benefits for each week you are eligible back to 12/27.***

Will our back payments be in a lump sum amount?

***If the continued claims are all filed, yes payment will be lumpsum. It depends on when and how many continued claims are filed.***

I applied for PUA at the end of October when my regular benefits ran out. I kept filing regular claims like I was told to do and never received anything for the time I was doing it into December. Will there be back pay for that?

***You will need to contact us to investigate this situation, please call us at 307-473-3789.***

What if you stopped filing, do you still get back pay?

***We would have to investigate the reason you stopped filing, you will need to contact us at 307-473-3789.***

Can this be backdated to November 2020??

***New PUA claims and extended PUA claims can only be backdated to 12-27-20.***

I applied for PUA at the end of October when my regular benefits ran out. I kept filing regular claims like I was told to do and never received anything for the time I was doing it into December. Will there be back pay for that?

***You will need to contact us to investigate this situation, please call us at 307-473-3789.***

Are we able to submit for back pay of PUA for last year?

***New PUA claims and extended PUA claims can only be backdated to 12-27-20.***

When we are able to file continued PUA claims, will those dates since December 27 all come up at once on the WYUI screen?

***Yes.***

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## Job Search and Income Reporting

If PUA is exempt from work searches, why do we need to submit them for continued claims?

***If you are on PUA and are unemployed due to Covid-19, you can put a zero (0) in that box. You are not required to submit a work search. For all other UI programs, you need to submit a work search.***

How do we honor the job searches for all these weeks? Will there be a page to log all these weeks for continued claims?

***PUA claimants are not required to provide work searches.***

If a friend gives me a gift to help tide me over until my biz is back and running, does that gift count against PUA benefits?

***No, gifts are not considered income.***

How is my PUA claim/benefits affected if I work a few hours a week?

***All income needs to be reported in the weekly certification process. A claims adjudicator will determine the net effect of earnings on claims.***

Do we need to have an updated resume on file with Wyoming Unemployment to receive PUA?

***Yes, even though you don't have to do work searches, you still need to be Registered at Wyoming at Work.***

If I got a job since December 27<sup>th</sup>, can I still be paid for the weeks I was unemployed?

***Getting a job does not disqualify you for UI benefits you were eligible for before becoming reemployed. You may apply for those weeks you were unemployed between Dec. 27 and the date you began working again.***

How many hours can I work as a family caregiver that will not affect my PUA claim?

***For specific questions please call the claims center at 307-473-3789.***

Can you give more clarification on maximums on self-employment earnings? If we work a few hours a week can we still collect unemployment? Is this a certain number of hours/income?

***For specific questions please call the claims center at 307-473-3789.***

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# Issues with WYUI Accounts

I have been having troubles with my account and for months I have not been able to see my correspondence or inquiry pages, will this be fixed with the new program?

***We are troubleshooting this issue. It's become a problem for claimants recently. If you are having a problem with viewing correspondence, please take a screenshot to share with us. That information will be valuable for IT in problem solving.***

Is Disaster Unemployment Assistance the same as PUA?

***No, they are two separate programs. It may show DUA on your claim type as we used that program when we were programming for PUA as it had the same code. You are on a PUA claim, not DUA.***

I have filed a new claim and now I'm listed as regular UI and I'm not regular UI, I'm a PUA claimant, so what do I do?

***Your regular UI claim will change to PUA after we have the program up and running. There isn't anything for you to do at this point.***

I was on PUA previously and it won't let me file a new PUA claim, it says System detected unfinished Claim Application. Claimant has to finish filling the Claim Application. Do I just need to wait for the system to update next week? My benefit year ended at the end of December and I did open a new claim right away and have been submitting continued claims but it says "Insufficient" wage claim.

***You already have a PUA claim, you don't need to file again. If you have filed a regular claim already at quarter change, the system should revert back to PUA when it goes live.***

What if I've been told that I've been doing everything right and it said determination on file? what do I need to do?

***You need to contact the Claims Center at 307-473-3789.***

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## 1099G Forms

I look at my correspondence daily. I received a code for 1099-G. When I opened it the form read to register again. I have registered and I am confused about the letter under 1099-G form.

*Instead of seeing your 1099G, you may be viewing your BAM-21 that tells you to register for work. You can call the Claims Center and have us print and mail you a copy of your 1099G. You might also try to use a different web browser. Google Chrome, Internet Explorer and Microsoft Edge are recommended. Apple products can mess with the way things appear, too.*

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## FPUC

Is the \$300 on top of the minimum \$194? or including?

*The \$300 FPUC is added on to all approved Unemployment claims (regular UI, PEUC, PUA, and MEUC when it becomes available).*

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## Future Federal UI Programs

Will the UI system have to be reprogrammed again with the new stimulus that is being moved through congress right now? Will this mean that basically as soon as the new PUA system is implemented following the December Stimulus, it will go down again to be re-programmed for a new March stimulus?

*This depends on how the law is written and what the requirements are. If the requirements change greatly, as they did this time, it will take time to make the changes. We must implement any changes carefully and ensure that we are paying the correct amounts and not under- or over-paying claimants.*

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## How to File

So if we got PUA in 2020, what else do we have to provide?

***Proof of ID and proof of employment or connection to the workforce if not provided previously.***

What are the steps to file online if we were previously on PUA?

***A new claim must be filed if not done so after 1-3-2021. Please do not file a new PUA claim.***

Do we need to file a new claim -- our claim was filed last April, it gives a determination on file message?

***Please contact the UI Claims Center at 307-473-3789. Determination on file means a decision (denial) has been made.***

Is there a way to make an appointment with someone in person at workforce services next week to get help and walk through the PUA claim on a computer there and give copies of my forms of ID?

***There are computers and staff available in all Workforce Centers. Any claimant can walk into our Centers and use the computers.***

Can you please clarify, once the reprogramming goes through next week, will we have to retroactively file continued claims we were told not to? When we are able to file continued PUA claims, will those dates since December 27 all come up at once on the WYUI screen?

***They will be available under the Continued Claims tab for application on the system.***

What tab do we click on for a new claim?

***The Continued Claims tab, or it can be filed under the Unemployment Claim tab***

What if your continued claim was filed every week for PUA and was not paid; do you need to refile for every week?

***We will have to send out the paper claim forms so we have the same information for PUA. The updated PUA requires specific COVID-19 questions that are not currently available in the system.***

Are previous PUA recipients from last summer considered continuing their past claim or are they considered a new claim?

***Yes, they are considered to be continuing their PUA claim.***

If I had a PUA claim from March 2020-September 2020, was then employed September - November, then unemployed again December 2020 - current, would this be considered a prior PUA claim or a new claim?

***It would be considered a PUA claim.***

I have applied for benefits already, regular unemployment which was not accepted as I'm self employed. Do I need to reapply?

***No, you just need to file for a PUA claim.***

I just tried to file a PUA claim and it says "System detected unfinished Claim Application. Claimant has to finish filling Claim Application." I cannot find how to finish an unfinished Claim Application. What do I do, where do I go to finish this? I am not a new Claimant; I was on before the end of last year and received payments.

***For specific questions please call the claims center at 307-473-3789.***

I'm trying to file a claim for the quarter and it keeps saying my employment history isn't coming up in the system. But I'm self employed. It won't let me go past this point to file.

***For specific questions please call the claims center at 307-473-3789.***

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## PPP

Can you get PPP and PUA?

***Yes. You do need to submit what you earned with PPP on your application for PUA. PPP is considered wages.***

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## PUA Rules

As a new PUA claimant how many weeks am I eligible for?

***As a new PUA claim, there is a potential of 50 weeks, except it expires on 3/13/2021 or 11 weeks. We are tracking Congress to see if there are any extensions. The new PUA application requires more information and verification than the original application did.***

I applied for regular ui and was denied will it roll over to pua automatically like before?

***If you were already on a PUA claim and filed at quarter change, the system will revert back to the PUA claim when it goes live.***

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