

## COVID-19 | Unemployment Insurance and Pandemic Assistance

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Who administers the unemployment insurance program?**

The Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) administers the Nevada Unemployment Insurance (UI) program. Nevada workers who have experienced job losses through no fault of their own may be eligible for unemployment compensation. The CARES Act made some important temporary changes for workers on both the federal and state level were made to the program to accommodate new COVID-19-related applications. Information on those changes can be found on the state's [website](#), and it will be updated regularly.

#### **How much can I get from unemployment insurance?**

It depends on Nevada state law and your previous earnings. Between now and July 31, an additional \$600 will be added to every unemployment compensation check, so no one will receive less than \$600 per week.

#### **What if I am not eligible for traditional unemployment insurance?**

The CARES Act established a temporary program called the Pandemic Assistance Program that temporarily expands unemployment insurance to cover individuals who are not traditionally covered, including the self-employed, gig-workers, independent contractors, and workers with irregular work history. It also expands the list of allowable criteria for claiming unemployment compensation to include many reasons related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Contact the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) unemployment office at 800-603-9681 or visit [www.employnv.gov](http://www.employnv.gov) to determine your eligibility.

#### **What if I have been out of work because of COVID-19 for several weeks already?**

If you exhaust the weeks of unemployment compensation available to you through Nevada state law, you will be eligible for an additional 13 weeks of benefits. These benefits will be federally-funded, but you will still receive them through Nevada's Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR). If you are potentially eligible for this Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, DETR will notify you by mail, and you will then need to log in to the unemployment insurance claim filing system and follow the steps outlined [here](#).

#### **How long will the expanded benefits be in place?**

Expanded eligibility for unemployment insurance will be in effect until December 31, 2020. A \$600 additional benefit will be added to unemployment compensation received for weeks between when the bill was enacted in March and July 31, 2020.

#### **Is there a waiting period?**

The CARES Act includes incentives for states to waive the waiting week between applying for unemployment compensation and receiving it. Governor Steve Sisolak has temporarily waived the requirement that applicants need to wait 7 days after they have been terminated from a job to apply

for UI, and has waived the requirement that applicants have to show they are actively looking for work.

### **How do I file an application for unemployment insurance?**

You can apply now for traditional unemployment compensation through the unemployment office in Nevada's DETR [here](#).

- If you are self-employed, an independent contractor, gig worker, or other who previously did not qualify for traditional unemployment insurance benefits, you may be eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). To apply for these funds, you will need to fill out the online PUA application at [www.employnv.gov](http://www.employnv.gov). You may also call the Nevada PUA call center at 800-603-9681. You will want to have on hand documents that show your 2019 income, including things like tax returns, W-2 or 1099 forms, pay stubs, and bank statements.

### **What if I do not have access to a computer or the Internet to file a return?**

If you do not have access to a computer, you can [call](#) the DETR Call Center Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 8:00pm (PST). Please do not hesitate to try calling them again if you had trouble reaching them previously. DETR has recently expanded its call center capacity to accommodate the increase in calls.

### **Does the emergency cash payment affect my unemployment claim?**

No, there is no impact to your eligibility. The CARES Act temporarily expands unemployment insurance to cover individuals who are not traditionally covered, including the self-employed, gig-workers, independent contractors, and workers with irregular work history. It also expands the list of allowable criteria for claiming unemployment compensation to include many reasons related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Contact the unemployment office in Nevada or the state where you worked to determine your eligibility.