



# VA Unemployment Assistance

The Federal CARES Act was signed into law March 27, 2020. The Act provides Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) for **Virginia Residents**

## PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA)

Expanded eligibility for individuals who have traditionally been ineligible for Unemployment Benefits such as **self-employed workers, independent contractors, those not eligible for regular unemployment**

**Are you someone not eligible for traditional Unemployment Benefits?  
Ask yourself these questions and follow these steps to receive PUA benefits:**

### How do I know if I qualify?

**FIRST**, you must be a **self-employed worker, independent contractor, or someone else not eligible for regular unemployment**

**SECOND**, do you answer **yes** to one of the following questions:

- Did your place of employment close due to COVID-19?
- Are you unable to go to your job because you are being advised to self-quarantine?
- Are you now taking care of a child or household member no longer able to attend their school or facility because of COVID-19 and their attendance is required for you to be able to work?
- Are you unable to reach your place of employment due to COVID-19?
- Did you quit your job because of COVID-19?
- Have you or a member of your household been diagnosed with COVID-19?
- Are you now the main support for your household because the head of household died from COVID-19?
- Are you experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking diagnosis?
- Are you providing care for a family or household member with COVID-19?
- Were you scheduled to begin working but no longer have that job or cannot reach it because of COVID-19?

## How to Apply in Virginia? (FOLLOW THESE TWO STEPS)

**FIRST**, file for regular unemployment benefits before completing the PUA application

### Information Needed for Claiming

#### Unemployment Benefits:

#### Regular Unemployment Application

- Your Social Security Number.
- The name and local number of your local union hall, if you obtain work through a union.
- Your Alien Registration Number if you are not a US citizen.
- You will be asked to select a method of payment: **VA Debit Card** or **Direct Deposit**. If you select Direct Deposit, you will need to have your Routing Number (First 9 digits located at the bottom of your checks) and your Account Number (5-17 digits, its exact location and number of digits varies from bank to bank).

**SECOND**, file a PUA Application

**You do not need to submit proof of earnings, such as a 1099 or tax filing at this time**

### PUA Application

#### **FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (FPUC)**

An additional \$600 per week, on top of regular benefits, to all UC, PEUC, and recipients

#### **Approved for PUA benefits? What should you do for FPUC?**

Do nothing – your benefit will automatically be updated after it is determined that you are eligible for Unemployment Benefits, either traditional or PUA

What you may qualify to receive:

- An additional \$600/week until July 31, 2020 (beginning April 4, 2020)

For a detailed Question and Answer provided by Governor Northam, visit:

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/Frequently-Asked-Questions-from-Workers-Regarding-COVID-19.pdf>