

TEAMMATE SERVICES

WHAT: California – Filing an unemployment claim

WHEN: May 7, 2020

WHO: Teammates in California

The Employment Development Department (EDD) in California operates the state's Unemployment Insurance (UI) program. UI benefits are not only for those individuals who unfortunately find themselves without work, the program also covers workers whose hours have been reduced for business reasons. If your hours have been reduced and you are struggling financially to keep up with expenses, please explore the option of applying for partial UI benefits.

Due to the impact of Covid19, California made the following temporary exceptions for all Unemployment Insurance claims until further notice:

- Waiting period – the 7-day waiting period is waived for claims beginning on or after January 19, 2020. After you submit your first two-week continued certification, you will be paid for the first week of claim.
- Work Search – You are not required to look for work each week to be eligible for benefits.

What you need to apply:

- Social Security number
- California driver license or ID card
- Proof of US citizenship, or a green card, or a visa that allows you to work in the US, or an Alien Registration Number
- Work history from the last 18 months. This includes the name of any companies as they appear on your paycheck, the dates of employment, hours worked per week, the total wages you earned before taxes were taken out (gross wages), hourly rate of pay, and the reason you are no longer working.
- Specific information from your last employer or company. This includes your employer's name, mailing address, phone number, supervisor's name, total wages you earned before taxes were taken out (gross wages) for the last week you worked, and the reason for your unemployment.

The fastest way to apply:

The fastest way to apply for all unemployment benefits is through UI Online. After you have registered for a Benefit Programs Online account, you can get started on UI Online. You can still apply for UI by phone, mail, or fax.

https://www.edd.ca.gov/Benefit_Programs_Online.htm

Filling out employment information for COVID-19 claims in UI Online:

- If you have been laid off or had hours cut back as a direct result of COVID-19, **under the first dropdown menu in the Additional Information section, select Laid Off/Lack of Work as your reason for separation.** Then select **Out of Work Due to COVID-19.**
- Submit the first date you were affected by COVID-19. We will back pay you for the weeks you are eligible to receive benefits. PUA supports claims between February 2, 2020 and December 26, 2020. Claims between March 29 and July 25, 2020 are eligible for an additional, taxable \$600 every week.

Benefit payments for Unemployment Insurance, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Disability Insurance, and Paid Family Leave are all made using the EDD Debit Card.

- **If you were issued an EDD Debit Card in the last three years,** you will receive your benefit payments on that card. If your card has expired, a new card will automatically be sent to you once funds are available.
 - Note: If you were issued a card before 2015, you must visit Replace my Card or contact Bank of America at 1-866-692-9374 (TTY: 1-866-656-5913) to request a new one.
- If you lost your EDD Debit Card, visit Replace my Card or contact Bank of America at 1-866-692-9374 (TTY: 1-866-656-5913). You do not need to speak to a representative. Choose the “lost or stolen” option in the automated menu. Your new card will arrive 7 to 10 business days from the order date.

To continue receiving benefit payments, you’ll need to certify your unemployment status every two weeks via UI Online for the fastest and most secure way to obtain benefits.

Note: Certification is not required at this time for benefits with week ending dates of March 14 through May 9, 2020. The EDD will contact you at a later date to certify for these weeks.

Resources:

Step by Step guide to filing an unemployment claim

https://www.edd.ca.gov/unemployment/Filing_a_Claim.htm

Unemployment Insurance Benefit calculator:

<https://www.edd.ca.gov/unemployment/UI-Calculator.htm>

FAQs regarding California Unemployment Claims:

https://www.edd.ca.gov/unemployment/FAQ_-_Eligibility.htm

What to expect after you have filed a claim:

https://www.edd.ca.gov/unemployment/After_you_Filed.htm

