



Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) Program Q&A

What is the Lost Wages Assistance program?

The Lost Wages Assistance Program was created through executive order signed by the President with the intent to replace the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) \$600 weekly benefit that expired in July. This program allows for the use of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Relief Funds to make supplemental unemployment compensation payments if the state provides a 25% match for federal funding. FEMA will approve grants on a first-come, first-served basis.

How much is this new benefit?

If approved for the new program, Nevada could offer an additional unemployment compensation benefit of \$300 per week to eligible unemployment recipients. Like many states who are applying for this program, Nevada will seek the additional \$300 for those that qualify but anticipates not being able to contribute the additional \$100 per week due to budget concerns.

Who will be eligible to receive this new benefit?

Eligible unemployment recipients who receive \$100 or more in their weekly benefit amount in an approved Unemployment Insurance (UI) or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program listed below would be eligible under the terms of the LWA program. Additionally, recipients must certify that they are unemployed or partially unemployed due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19. Eligible recipients may include those receiving:

- State Unemployment Compensation
- Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE)
- Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service members (UCX)
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
- Extended Benefits (EB)
- Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA)

When will it be available?

If Nevada's application for this program is approved, we will begin our implementation plan for the program. The timeline for implementation will be driven by the following factors:

- Development of another program to administer the grant while continuing to complete the updates and fine-tuning needed on the existing UI and PUA systems;
- Identifying a funding source for any costs that would not be covered by the grant;
- Ensuring all of the funds used to build, implement and operate the LWA program are kept separate from UI and PUA; and
- Complying with Federal grant reporting requirements involving identifying fraudulent claims and recovering all fraudulent payouts and overpayments to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) within 90 days of the close of the program.

This program would be retroactive to help eligible claimants as of the week of unemployment ending August 1, 2020, once implemented.