

Filing for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

You can now apply for the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, which provides federal benefits to individuals who have traditionally been ineligible for regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. If you have lost income due to COVID-19, and you are self-employed, an independent contractor (1099), a gig worker, or an individual with an insufficient work history, you may apply.

Before you file for PUA, you must first file for regular UI benefits and be denied.

Please follow steps 1-5 below if you have not already filed a regular UI benefits claim.

If you have already filed a regular UI claim, please skip to Step 5 and click on the link to file your PUA application.

Step 1:

Go to <https://does.dcnetworks.org/InitialClaims/>

Department of Employment Services

Unemployment Insurance Service Center for Claimants

does
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Welcome to the District of Columbia Initial Claims Filing System
Click here for "ESPAÑOL" | Click here for "ENGLISH"

Internet Browser recommendation - This site works best using MS Internet Explorer (IE).

Si necesita asistencia en español, por favor llame al 202-724-7000 para proporcionarle servicios de interpretación de manera gratuita.
Nếu quý vị cần giúp đỡ về tiếng Việt, xin gọi 202-724-7000 để chúng tôi thu xếp có thông dịch viên đến giúp quý vị miễn phí.
Si vous avez besoin d'aide en français, appelez le 202-724-7000 et l'assistance d'un interprète vous sera fournie gratuitement.
한국어로 언어 지원이 필요한 경우 202-724-7000 로 연락을 주시면 무료로 통역이 제공됩니다.
如果您需要用 (中文)接受幫助, 請電洽202-724-7000, 將免費向您提供口譯服務。

This site permits individuals to file initial claims for Unemployment Compensation benefits against the District of Columbia via the Internet.
In certain circumstances you may not be able to use this internet application to file your initial claim. If this is the case, we will indicate the reason why you cannot file over the Internet and we will provide instructions on what you must do to file a claim in person.

If you need assistance answering any of the questions please click Help along the left side of any page, then click on the name of the page containing the question.

We are pleased to offer you the option of having any benefits you are determined eligible for deposited directly into your bank account. We suggest you have your bank account information handy before beginning the filing process.

Five good reasons to choose Direct Deposit - Direct Deposit is:

1. FAST - You can receive within 2 business days any benefit payments you are eligible for.
2. CONVENIENT - You don't have to take time to go to your financial institution each time you receive a benefit payment.
3. SAFE - Benefit payments are directly deposited into the bank account you specify preventing lost or stolen checks.
4. RELIABLE - Benefit payments are deposited into your account correctly and confidentially.
5. SIMPLE - Enrollment is easy to begin and may be changed or stopped online at your convenience.

To begin filing your initial claim, please click the "File Your Claim Online" button below. If you do not wish to file an initial claim at this time, click "Return to Claimant Services".

YOU ARE ACCESSING A DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM YOU MAY NOT USE THIS SITE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL OR COMPANY. UNAUTHORIZED OR IMPROPER USE OF THIS SYSTEM WILL RESULT IN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND FINES. THIS INTERNET SERVICE EMPLOYS THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF SECURITY TO ENSURE OUR CUSTOMER INFORMATION IS SAFEGUARDED AT ALL TIMES.

TO PROTECT YOUR SENSITIVE DATA, PLEASE BE SURE TO CLOSE THE BROWSER WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED.

File Your Claim online | Return to Claimant Services

Step 2:

Click on "File Your Claim Online" at the bottom of the page.

Step 3:

File an Initial Claim for regular UI benefits.

(To qualify for PUA, you must be ineligible to receive regular UI benefits. When you file the regular Initial Claim for UI benefits, you will be held ineligible and required to complete the subsequent PUA application)

Step 4:

Near the end of the Initial Claim application, select “Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)” as the Reason for Separation.

Department of Employment Services

SSN: xxx-xx-5552

Initial Claims

DOES LOGO

Name: sam test

Separation Information For chef

* Required fields

* Please enter your employment start date (Month DD, YYYY):

Month Day (mm dd yyyy)

* Please enter your employment end date (Month DD, YYYY):

Month Day (mm dd yyyy)

* Please select reason for separation from the drop-down list:
Choose Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) if you are self-employed, an independent contractor, a gig economy worker or lack sufficient work history.

Laid off - Lack of work
Discharged by employer
Voluntary quit
Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

Next Cancel Initial Claims Process

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Step 5:

At the end of the Initial Claim for regular UI benefits, you will be presented with a link directing you to the PUA application.

You can also access the PUA application by clicking the link below:

[Pandemic Unemployment Assistance \(PUA\) Application](#)

***Only complete the PUA application if you have already filed for regular UI benefits by following the steps above.**