UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Weekly Certifications and Work Search Expectations

S.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT & WORKFORCE

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WEEKLY CERTIFICATIONS AND WORK SEARCH EXPECTATIONS

Do I need to do anything after I file my claim? What is a weekly certification?

Each claim week, Sunday to Saturday, you will need to file a weekly certification. A certification means that you are confirming the information submitted for the claim week is correct and that you should continue receiving unemployment insurance benefits for that week.

Once you have submitted your initial claim, you must login to the system every week to certify that you are still unemployed in order to continue receiving benefits.

When should I begin filing weekly certifications?

On the Sunday after you submit your application for benefits, you should begin filing weekly certifications through your MyBenefits portal. You should begin certifying weekly even before you receive a final determination on your claim.

What if I work during the week? What if I get part-time work? Do I have to report earnings from another job if I do some side work during the week?

You must report any wages earned during that claim week. Working part-time or odd jobs while receiving unemployment is acceptable and even encouraged. Failure to report your earning is considered fraud.

You may earn up to 25 percent of your weekly state unemployment benefit amount without receiving a deduction in payment, however, even if you receive a reduction in state benefits due to part-time work, you will still receive the total $600 FPUC payment as long as you are receiving at least $1.00 of state unemployment insurance.

If I work as an election poll worker do I have to report my earnings?

Now more than ever, volunteering as a poll worker is a critical role as communities figure out how to balance the important civic responsibility of voting with the new expectations of health and safety. These positions are vital to the election process that has served as the foundation of our democracy for more than 200 years.

Please know that as per the South Carolina code of laws, money given to claimants who serve as poll workers, managers, or other election duties will be considered per diem, which does not constitute as wages. This means these individuals will not be required to report these earnings when certifying their weekly unemployment insurance claims and this per diem will not count against their allowed UI earnings.

If I'm offered my job back, do I need to take it? Will I lose my benefits?

Individuals who have turned down offers of suitable work are not eligible to continue receiving UI benefits. Your employer will have the opportunity to report that you refused an offer of work, and it will be the responsibility of the Recall Taskforce to hear both sides of the story before deciding if the individual is still eligible for unemployment under the expansion of the CARES Act. You can find more information on our website here: https://dew.sc.gov/employers/ui-benefits/hiring-new-workers/offers-of-work.

What is the Recall Taskforce?

The Recall Taskforce was created to help employers and employees navigate the re-engagement of our workforce statewide. While many South Carolinians will be relieved and excited to return to the security of long-term employment, there will be some who still have barriers, such as childcare, that will prevent them from immediately returning to work. There will also be those who prefer – for various reasons – to continue collecting unemployment insurance even though they could, and should, return to work.

In addition to helping employers understand the different federal funding programs available to their workforce and the eligibility requirements of each one, the Recall Taskforce wants businesses who are reopening to know that their employees cannot refuse an offer for work without good cause if they wish to continue to collect unemployment insurance. Individuals who have turned down offers of suitable work are not eligible to continue receiving UI benefits. If you have offered an individual a job and they refused, it is important for you to report the incident to DEW through your Employer Self Service Portal. More information can be found here:

https://dew.sc.gov/employers/ui-benefits/hiring-new-workers/offers-of-work.

CHART: Unemployment Insurance *Guide to the CARES Act*

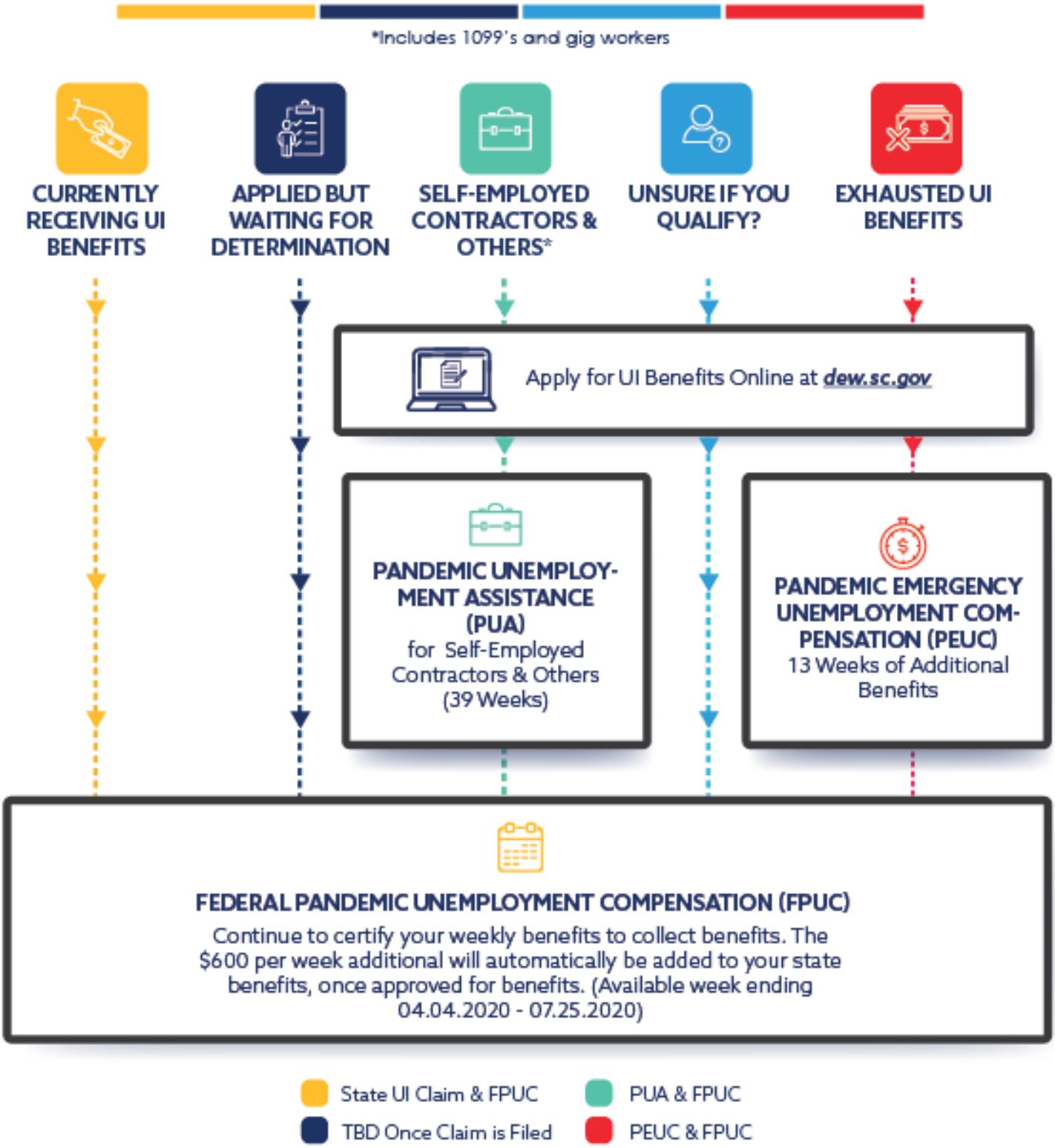

CHART: Comparison of BENEFIT PROGRAMS

	SC Unemployment Insurance	SC Extended Benefits	$600 (Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation - FPUC)	Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)	Benefits for Self-Employed and those not Eligible for UI (Pandemic Unemployment Assistance - PUA)
WHO IS THIS FOR?	Unemployed workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own.	Individuals who have exhausted regular UI benefits during periods of high unemployment - triggered by SC law.	Individuals receiving regular UI, EB, PUA, or PEUC.	Individuals who remain unemployed after UI is no longer available.	Individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost as a direct result of COVID-19 and are not eligible for regular UI, EB, or PEUC, including exhaustees.
WHO DOES THIS SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDE?	Individuals who are unable to work or those who do not have a recent earnings history.				Excludes individuals able to telework with pay or individuals receiving paid leave.
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	1. Unemployed through no fault of their own; 2. Able, available, and actively seeking work; 3. Has registered for work with SCWOS; 4. Has not earned excess wages; and 5. Has not refused work.	If available, Extended Benefits may start after an individual exhausts other UI benefits.	Individuals must have an active benefit claim under state or federal law.	Individuals must have exhausted state benefits or the benefit year has ended, and the individual is not currently eligibile for UI.	Individuals must provide self-certification that the individual is otherwise able and available except that the individual is unable to work because of COVID-19.
MONETARY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT	Must have earned at least $4,455 in covered employment during their base period. The base period is either the four oldest of the last five completed calendar quarters or the last four completed calendar quarters. Additionally, the total amount of wages in the base period must be at least 1.5 times the wages earned in the highest earning quarter.		Must meet state minimum monetary eligibility requirements to establish a claim.	Must meet state minimum monetary eligibility requirements to establish a claim.	Similar manner to regular state UI benefits. Self-employed must provide information to establish eligibility.
AMOUNT RECEIVED	Between $42 and $326.	Between $42 and $326.	$600 per week in addition to regular benefit amount.	Weekly benefit amount from the prior benefit year plus the $600 FPUC payment.	Weekly benefit amount under state UI law plus the $600 FPUC payment.
FUNDING	State (the UI trust fund is comprised of taxes SC employers pay on their payroll).	Federally funded (authorized under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act through 12/31/20).	100% federally funded.	100% federally funded.	100% federally funded.
DURATION	Up to 20 weeks of full UI benefits.	Additional 10 weeks of UI benefits.		Additional 13 weeks of benefits.	39 weeks of benefits total, including regular UI and EB weeks.
TIMEFRAME			Effective from the claim week ending April 4, 2020 through the claim week ending July 25, 2020.	Effective from the claim week ending April 4, 2020 through the claim week ending December 26, 2020.	Effective for the claim week ending February 8, 2020 through the claim week ending December 26, 2020.