ALERT: Update on Lost Wages Assistance

Updated Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020

The Employment Security Department’s application for the Lost Wages Assistance program was approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on Mon. Aug. 24, 2020. The program is a temporary emergency measure that will allow ESD to provide an additional $300 per week for a limited time to those who have lost work due to the COVID-19 crisis.

When will the money be available?

We will start processing payments for this new program on Monday, Sept. 21. Eligible claimants will receive the money in their account as soon as their bank processes the payment from us. Payments will be retroactive for all the weeks claimants are eligible and funding is available from the federal government.

How do I access the benefit?

- For those receiving regular unemployment insurance, Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) or Extended Benefits (EB), you will need to certify that you are unemployed, working fewer hours or partially unemployed due to disruptions caused by COVID-19 to be eligible for this additional benefit. Eligible claimants can begin certifying on Sept. 8, 2020 and they need to respond to it by Sept. 20, 2020, in order to receive the retroactive payments the week of Sept. 21.
- Those receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) have already certified they are unemployed, working fewer hours or partially unemployed due to disruptions caused by COVID-19 and do not need to take this additional step.
- If claimants have told us they prefer paper correspondence, then we will mail instructions.

We will continue to share updates via this alert and our social media channels. We also will contact claimants directly via email and their eServices accounts.

Please do not contact the claims center with questions about this new program.

Learn more and find answers to questions at esd.wa.gov/LWA.

Resource: https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/alerts/lost-wages-assistance