**ALERT: Lost Wages Assistance program**

Lost Wages Assistance is a federal program that adds $300 for each week the program remains federally funded. If you receive unemployment benefits for certain weeks and you are unemployed or working fewer hours due to disruptions caused by COVID-19, you may be eligible for these benefits.

The LWA program has a limited budget, so the length of time it’s available depends on how quickly all participating states use up the federal funds.

**Requirements to receive LWA payments**

1. Federal funds are still available.
2. You must have been unemployed or working fewer hours due to disruptions caused by COVID-19.
3. We already paid you unemployment benefits for the approved weeks of the program.

**Approved weeks of the program**

We are required to submit applications for LWA each week. We will continue to submit applications each week for as many weeks as funds are available.

Applications currently approved for weeks ending Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and Sept. 5.

If you’re eligible for any of the approved weeks, you will receive the extra $300 retroactively for those weeks.
LWA payments

3 steps to getting LWA payments – with an eServices account

1. Answer the eligibility question
   If you have an eServices account, you will see a notice in your account saying that you need to answer an eligibility question. This will appear in your account starting the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020. Click the link to answer one question to certify if you were unemployed or working fewer hours due to COVID-19.

   Important! You can certify any time between the evening of Sept. 8 and 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20 to get your payment the week of Sept. 21. Hundreds of thousands of people will be certifying during this time, and we expect a high volume on Sept. 8. To avoid system slowdowns, please log in to eServices to certify after Sept. 8. Early mornings and late evenings also are good times. We will start processing payments on Sept. 21.

   We will notify you in your eServices account, or by mail if you do not have an eServices account, to say whether you have been approved for Lost Wages Assistance.

   If you are receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), you don’t need to answer the eligibility question because you already have. In that case, you won’t receive a notice in eServices. We will automatically pay you the extra $300 for the weeks you are eligible.

2. We approve or deny you for the program
   Once we receive your answer to the eligibility question, we will send you a notice in your eServices account to let you know we received it and are processing it.

   We will check to see if you have been paid unemployment benefits for the weeks ending Aug. 1, Aug. 8, Aug. 15, Aug. 22, Aug. 29 and Sept. 5. You can check the status of these weeks in eServices.

   Then we’ll send you another notice telling you whether you are eligible to receive the $300 and for what weeks.

3. We issue your payment(s)
   If you have an eServices account, we will send you a notice to tell you we
issued a payment and when. We issue payments by direct deposit or debit card.

3 steps to getting LWA payments – without an eServices account

If you applied for unemployment benefits and submit your weekly claims by phone instead of online, the three steps are the same, but we will communicate with you differently.

1. Answer the eligibility question
   We will send you a letter by mail to tell you about the LWA program. We will give you a phone number to call. You will reach an agent who will ask you to certify if you are or were unemployed or working fewer hours due to COVID-19. The agents taking your call can help you only with this question.

   You can call during business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday - Friday) through Sept. 18 to get your payment the week of Sept. 21, if you are eligible. Many people will be certifying by phone. To serve you better, please call according to the instructions you will receive in our letter. We will start processing payments on Sept. 21. If you call after Sept. 21, you may still receive a payment. However, the LWA program has a limited budget. We encourage you to call by Sept. 18.

   If you are receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), you don’t need to answer the eligibility question because you already have. In that case, you won’t receive a notice by mail. We will automatically pay you the extra $300 for the weeks you are eligible.

2. We approve or deny you for the program
   After you speak to an agent to answer the eligibility question, we will check to see if you have been paid unemployment benefits for the weeks ending Aug. 1, Aug. 8, Aug. 15, Aug. 22, Aug. 29 and Sept. 5. We will then send you another letter by mail to tell you whether you are eligible to receive the $300 and for what weeks.

3. We issue your payment(s)
   We issue payments by direct deposit or debit card. You will need to check your banking accounts to see if you received the payment(s). We will not send you another letter to tell you if we issued a payment.

Resource:
https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment/lwa