



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Virginia Employment Commission

Ellen Marie Hess  
Commissioner

Post Office Box 1358  
703 East Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1358

April 14, 2020

CARES Act 2020

**Reference:** Individuals who are self-employed, gig workers, 1099 filers, and other workers not covered under the Virginia Unemployment Compensation Act (certain religious institutions, non-profits, farm owners)

The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) is in the process of standing up an IT solution to pay the federally funded benefits under the CARES Act. We hope to have this functionality in 2 to 3 weeks. The federally funded benefits cannot be paid from the state UI Trust Fund.

- **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)** will be retroactive to the week ending March 28 or the date after that time that your employment ceased or your business closed in compliance with Governor Northam's Executive Order 53. The duration for PUA is up to 39 weeks.
- The **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)** \$600 a week supplement to PUA will be retroactive to the week ending April 4 and payable through July 25, 2020 as long as you remain eligible for PUA during that time.

When the system is functional, you will need to supply **proof of 2019 wages and self-attest that your business closed or employment ceased due to Covid-19.**

If you have not applied for regular state UI benefits, please do so now. As one of the requirements for receiving the federal benefits, we must determine and document that you are not eligible for regular state UI benefits.

If you already applied for state UI benefits and received a notice of monetary ineligibility, when the system is ready to accept and process claims, we will send a text message informing you that you can file your CARES Act claim.

PUA and FPUC benefits are taxable. You can choose to have your taxes withheld from your payments. FPUC is also subject to child support offset.