



Workforce Issuance

100 DCS 32.104

☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
MassHire Workforce Board Chairs
MassHire Workforce Board Directors
MassHire Career Center Directors
MassHire Fiscal Officers
MDCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
MassHire Department of Career Services

Date: April 30, 2020

Subject: **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance**

Purpose: To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators, and other local workforce development partners of an additional resource to assist customers with questions about the CARES Act and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), unemployment assistance for those not eligible for regular UI benefits, including gig workers, freelancers, and independent contractors.

Background: On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed into law the CARES Act, which includes the Relief for Workers Affected by Coronavirus Act. Section 2102 of the CARES Act creates a new temporary federal program called Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) that in general provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits to individuals who are not eligible for other types of unemployment. The CARES Act also creates a new temporary federal program called Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) that provides an additional \$600 weekly benefit to those eligible for PUA.

An equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

TDD/TTY 1-800-439-2370 - Voice 1-800-439-0183

Eligibility: PUA provides unemployment benefits to individuals who are unable to work because of a COVID-19-related reason but are not eligible for regular or extended unemployment benefits. To be eligible, individuals must be able to work and be available for work in accordance with state law.

Individuals receiving PUA benefits who are determined eligible for FPUC will receive an additional \$600 benefit payment for the weeks ending April 4, 2020 to July 25, 2020.

Beginning Monday April 20, 2020, applicants can access the PUA webpage at <https://ui-cares-act.mass.gov/PUA/> Applicants will need the following information:

- Social security number
- If not a citizen of the United States, your alien registration number
- Residential address
- Mailing address (if different from residential address)
- Telephone number
- Email address
- Date of Birth
- 2019 Wage records, including 1099 forms, Pay stubs, Bank statements
- The social security number(s) and date(s) of birth of dependent child(ren)
- Direct deposit information: bank account and routing numbers.

Reference: Please reference the [PUA Guidebook](#) for additional details related to the application process and appeals process in the event benefits are denied.

Action

Requested: Please share this issuance with all appropriate managers, staff and partners.

Effective: Immediately.