

Extended Benefits (EB): Frequently Asked Questions

What is Extended Benefits (EB)?

Extended Benefits (EB) is an extension program that is available when a state is at high unemployment. The average unemployment rate is reviewed over a 3-month period to determine if the state goes onto this extension. Depending upon the unemployment rate, extension pays 13 or 20 weeks of benefits.

How long will EB last?

EB will be available until Oregon reaches a 3-month average total unemployment rate that is below 6.5%. Individuals receiving EB will be notified in writing when Oregon EB is over.

How do I apply for extended benefits?

To apply, keep filing weekly like normal and you will be automatically enrolled if you are eligible. We also may reach out to you, so please turn off call-blocking features on your phone because our phone number will not show the call as coming from the Employment Department. We may leave a message if we do not reach you. Make sure your voicemail is set up and has space to receive new messages. If there is an interruption in payment, please let us know by using our website Contact Us form.

My PEUC balance is at zero (0), but I haven't been able to speak to anyone yet about EB. Should I wait to file another week of benefits until I can apply for EB?

No. Keep filing weekly claims while unemployed or partially employed. If you are eligible, we automatically will enroll you back to the week when the previous program benefits were exhausted (balance is at \$0).

How is my benefit amount determined?

EB is paid at the same rate of pay as your regular claim. Your weekly benefit amount is 1.25% of your total base year gross earnings. Under Oregon law, it will not be less than the minimum or more than the maximum amounts you can receive. Currently, the weekly minimum is \$157 and the weekly maximum is \$673.

The base year is a 12-month period made up of the first four of the last five completed quarters. It's based on the date you file your claim application, not the date you become unemployed. If you don't qualify for a claim using a regular base year we will automatically review your claim to see if you qualify for an alternate base year.

A calendar quarter is a 3-month period ending March 31, June 30, September 30, or December 31.

I'm eligible for a new regular claim, but my old claim had a much higher Weekly Benefit Amount. Can I file EB on my old claim?

No. EB can only be filed on the most recent valid claim if you have no other eligibility in Oregon or any other state.

Can I choose between Extended Benefits and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)?

No. PUA is only available if you do not qualify for a regular unemployment insurance claim or any extensions.

Do I have a new waiting week on EB?

No. EB does not have a separate waiting week.

What happens if I run out of EB benefits and still haven't found a job?

If you exhaust EB and are not eligible for a new claim in Oregon or any other state, you may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). Although the PUA program will expire soon, funds are available through the week ending Dec. 26, 2020. You can apply for this program on our [PUA CARES Act](#) page.

Are there any special requirements for EB?

Yes. Individuals receiving EB must be willing to accept work they are capable of performing that pays at least the state minimum wage, or an amount over your weekly benefit amount. If you turn down work offered under these conditions, you will be denied benefits until you work in four (4) separate weeks and earn four times your weekly benefit amount. Working in self-employment will not satisfy this requirement.

What are my work search requirements while receiving EB?

EB does have special work seeking requirements, however, you can continue following the guidance provided by the department and our COVID-19 temporary rules. We will notify you of new work search requirements once the COVID-19 temporary rules expire or are no longer in effect.

I live in Oregon and had a claim here last year, but my most recent valid claim was filed in Idaho. Where do I file EB?

You file EB in the state where you established your most recent valid claim. In this case, you would contact Idaho to file EB.

I have an Oregon claim, but live in a state that does not have EB available. Can I still receive this benefit?

Individuals who live in a state that has not triggered EB are only entitled to receive two weeks of EB. You could become eligible to receive additional EB benefits if your state later initiates the extension.

I don't qualify for an EB because I didn't earn enough in my base year, can I get other benefits?

You may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). PUA is available through the week ending Dec. 26, 2020. You can apply for this program on our [PUA CARES Act](#) page.

I got a document in the mail saying my EB benefit amount has been reduced. Why?

Generally, EB provides either 13 or 20 weeks of benefits, depending on the unemployment rate when the extension becomes available. If an individual is initially eligible for 20 weeks of benefits and the unemployment rate improves, some individuals will see a reduction in benefits accordingly. In this case, the Employment Department will send written notification to all who are affected.