






# MORE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS NOW AVAILABLE TO SCHOOL WORKERS

**Recent federal rules expanded the reasons school workers and people who provide services to schools can receive PUA benefits.**

That means we now can pay benefits to school employees and people providing service to schools who are **unemployed or had their hours reduced as a result of COVID-19. This includes changes in work schedules and partial closures.**

If you were denied benefits on a Regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) claim during a school break, **AND** your other non-school work in self-employment or employment was impacted by COVID during the break period, you may be eligible to receive PUA for those impacted weeks.




## New PUA Rules May Apply To:

-  School bus drivers
-  Food service workers
-  School nurses
-  Head Start employees based in schools
-  Regular and substitute teachers

**We will reach out to you if you may benefit from this rule change and we will provide instructions on any actions you need to take.**

## Backdating Claims

Under the new rules, PUA claims can be backdated. If you filed your initial claim:

-  On or before Dec. 27, 2020, you can apply for weekly benefits as far back as Feb. 2, 2020.
-  If you filed your initial claim on Dec. 28, 2020 or later, you can file for weekly benefits as far back as Dec. 6, 2020
-  If you have not yet filed an initial claim, after you file your initial claim you will be able to go back as far as Dec. 6, 2020 to claim weekly benefits.

If you're eligible for a PUA weekly benefit, you will also receive Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC).

The Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) program was temporary and gave an extra \$300 per week to people out of work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Generally speaking, FEMA is not allowing LWA funds to be paid retroactively.

The Oregon Employment Department is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Language assistance is available to persons with limited English proficiency at no cost.

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