

Message to Self-Employed Ohioans (IRS Form 1099-MISC filers)

Dear Ohioan:

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has launched its Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) application tool for individuals who are unemployed due to COVID-19 but who do not qualify for traditional unemployment benefits. Unlike regular benefits, which rely on employers' reported earnings for each employee quarterly, PUA relies on individual income tax records and proof of employment provided by claimants.

The benefit amount will be similar to traditional unemployment benefits, plus an additional \$600 per week through July 25. For those eligible, PUA benefits will be retroactive to the date they qualified, as early as February 2. The program will provide up to 39 weeks of benefits to many who historically have not qualified for unemployment benefits, such as self-employed workers, 1099 tax filers, part-time workers, and those who lack sufficient work history. Individuals who have exhausted all regular unemployment and any weekly extensions also may be eligible for the program.

To apply, please go to <https://pua.unemployment.ohio.gov/>. When you visit this website, in the lower left corner of the page, click the button that says "Click Here to Apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance." Ohioans without Internet access can dial 1-833-604-0774.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services