



2025 Unemployment Compensation (UC) Benefits

• INITIAL CLAIM APPLICATION

- You have the right to file an application during the first week you work less than your normal full-time hours.
- Applications can be filed anytime on the website www.benefits.uc.pa.gov which is the easier and faster way to file for UC benefits.
- If using the internet is not possible, telephone calls to our UC Services **888-313-7284** are accepted on Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. (UC TTY 888-334-4046).
- Information marked with a red asterisk must be provided (UC-23 PA UC Filing Materials Checklist) such as User ID and password, Social Security Number, Exact Reason for Separation, Separating employer Information, among others.
- New Identity Verification requirement ID.me started effective 7-16-21. Please follow the step-by-step desk guide provided. This verification must be done during the initial application process.

• INFORMATION YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- Claim Confirmation Letter, which confirms the claim was filed, and provides the Next Steps, Payment Methods, Support, and Tools regarding your UC claim.
- PA UC Debit Card if Direct Deposit was not elected.
- Unemployment Compensation Handbook, which explains all aspects of your rights and responsibilities when claiming Unemployment Compensation benefits.
- Notice of Financial Determination, informs you of your financial eligibility for benefits and Weekly Benefit Rate.

• QUALIFYING FOR UC BENEFITS

- Financially eligible: Total amount of wages (covered employment) earned in the Base Year (defined as the "First four of the last five completed calendar quarters preceding the quarter in which the UC claim is filed"). **Weekly Benefit Rate (WBR)** varies from \$68 to a max of \$605 (at least 50% of your average gross weekly wages reported in the highest quarter).
- Reason for separation, generally you have a qualifying separation if you are laid off due to lack of work.

• MAINTAINING ELIGIBILITY FOR UC BENEFITS

- Weekly claim filing. You will need your USER ID and Password. Must be filed online www.benefits.uc.pa.gov, or by phone (UC PAT number 888-255-4728, Spanish 877-888-8104, UC TTY 888-334-4046), but you will need to have a UC PIN. Please contact the UC Service Center if you need a UC PIN.
- Work-registration requirement, register for employment search services with the PA CareerLink® system at www.pacareerlink.pa.gov within 30 days after you file your application for benefits (How to Register in PA CareerLink®). Conduct an active search for work during each week claimed. Keep a written record of your work search activities (UC-304 Work Search Record).
- Able and available to work, must be able to work and available to work the majority of the week claimed.

• REDUCTION ON UC BENEFITS, UC Fund Solvency reduction (3.2%), Part-time earnings (**P**artial **B**enefit **C**redit-PBC, 30% of WBR), Holiday and Vacation pay, Severance Payment (over \$27,300), Pension/401(k), Support Orders, Federal Income Tax, and UC Overpayments.

• ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, Provide Accurate and Complete Information, Report any Separation from Employment, Report Holiday and Vacation Pay, Report Severance Pay, Pensions and Back Wage Awards, Update your contact Information.

• APPEAL RIGHTS, any determination issued by the UC Service Center can be appealed if you disagree. Appeals must be filed within 21 calendar days of the mailing date shown on the UC Service Center determination. Please carefully review any determination for accuracy and for the "last day to appeal" date listed.

Please remember that once your claim is established, you are responsible to provide us with all relevant information. For further information, please refer to your UC Handbook, or visit the UC website www.uc.pa.gov.

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