

FEDERAL LOST WAGES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

LOST WAGES ASSISTANCE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved funding for the District of Columbia Department of Employment Services (DOES) to provide \$300 per week in Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) to eligible DC workers for a limited number of weeks.

LWA is not an unemployment insurance program; it is a FEMA program that provides a supplemental payment on top of the unemployment benefits an eligible claimant receives from the District.

WHAT IS LOST WAGES ASSISTANCE (LWA)?

Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) is a federal FEMA program that provides an additional payment on top of weekly unemployment benefits for those who are eligible. To receive LWA, your unemployment weekly benefit amount must be at least \$100 a week, and you must be unemployed or partially unemployed due to disruptions caused by COVID-19.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR LOST WAGES ASSISTANCE?

To receive the \$300 in weekly Lost Wages Assistance, you must:

- Be eligible for a weekly benefit amount of at least \$100 for one of the following unemployment programs:
 - DC Unemployment Insurance (UI)
 - Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
 - Extended Benefits (EB)
 - Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
 - Shared Work (Short-Time Compensation)
- Self-certify that you are unemployed or partially unemployed due to disruptions caused by COVID-19.

Note: If you do not receive an unemployment compensation payment for a benefit week because you earned excessive wages, you will not be eligible to receive LWA for that week.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO APPLY FOR LOST WAGES ASSISTANCE?

You do not have to file a separate claim or application for Lost Wages Assistance. However, you must self-certify whether you are unemployed or partially unemployed due to disruptions caused by COVID-19 for DOES to determine your eligibility for LWA.

THREE WAYS TO SELF-CERTIFY:

1. Beginning September 19, 2020, when you first log in to your Claimant Services portal on www.dcnetworks.org, you will be presented with a self-certification question pertaining to LWA. The self-certification can only be completed once, so please review and answer carefully. If you complete the self-certification incorrectly, you will not be able to correct it without the assistance of an agent.
2. If you are unable to access the Claimant Services portal, please call (202) 724-7000 and a customer navigation representative will assist you with your self-certification.
3. You may also self-certify in person via a paper form at the front desk of our headquarters at 4058 Minnesota Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20019.

WHEN WILL I RECEIVE PAYMENT FOR LOST WAGES ASSISTANCE?

After certifying that you have been unemployed or partially unemployed due to disruptions caused by COVID-19, you will receive a lump sum payment retroactive to your earliest date of eligibility within the LWA program.

HOW LONG IS LOST WAGES ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE?

The length of the program will be determined by how long federal FEMA funds remain available for benefits. At this time, FEMA has indicated that benefits will be available only for the weeks ending August 1, 2020 through September 5, 2020. As of September 21, the District has been approved for four (4) of the total six (6) weeks of funding and expects to be approved for the two additional weeks soon.