

## **Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the LWA program?**

President Trump signed four Presidential Memorandums on Aug. 8, 2020, including one to offer enhanced unemployment insurance benefits of \$300 per week. The LWA program is for a total of six weeks and is available to individuals who received unemployment insurance, and meet all other eligibility factors, from the time period of July 26, 2020 through Sept. 5, 2020.

### **Has Utah applied for and been approved for the LWA program?**

Yes, Utah has applied for and has been approved to pay LWA benefits to eligible Utahns. Utah was one of the first states to apply for and receive an approval, as well as one of the first states to begin making LWA payments. You can read FEMA's press announcement here:

[fema.gov/news-release/20200817/fema-announces-lost-wages-grants-colorado-missouri-and-utah](https://www.fema.gov/news-release/20200817/fema-announces-lost-wages-grants-colorado-missouri-and-utah)

### **How much money will a person be eligible for each week and for how many weeks?**

For the state of Utah, an eligible individual could receive a \$300 additional stimulus benefit in addition to their weekly unemployment benefit. The LWA program is for a total of six weeks and is available to individuals who received unemployment insurance, and meet all other eligibility factors, from the time period of July 26, 2020 through Sept. 5, 2020.

The LWA program had a specific budget, this budget is the reason why the program is limited to six weeks.

### **Do I need to submit an application for the LWA?**

No, there is not an application for the LWA program. Currently, funding is limited to those who received an unemployment benefit for the time period of July 26, 2020, through Sept. 5, 2020, and are determined eligible for the additional \$300 LWA stimulus payment.

### **What time period does the LWA cover?**

The LWA program is for a total of six weeks, and is available to individuals who received unemployment insurance and meet all other eligibility factors from the time period of July 26, 2020 through Sept. 5, 2020.

### **Who is eligible for the LWA?**

The state must follow the federal guidelines. Eligible individuals include recipients whose weekly benefit amount is at least \$100 per week in the following unemployment-related assistance programs:

- Unemployment Insurance or Compensation (state benefits)
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (13 week federal extension)
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (federal self-employment unemployment)
- Extended Benefits

In addition, an individual must have attested that they are unemployed, or partially unemployed, as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Who is ineligible for the LWA?**

Primarily, the following individuals are not eligible for the LWA benefit:

- Individuals who did not receive an unemployment benefit in one of the above listed programs during the time period of July 26, 2020, through Sept. 5, 2020
- Individuals whose weekly benefit amount is less than \$100 in one of the above listed programs during the time period of July 26, 2020, through Sept. 5, 2020
- Individuals who did not lose, or become partially unemployed, as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic

**If I am eligible, when will I receive the LWA benefit?**

The LWA benefits will primarily be paid out in two payments. Each payment will take approximately a week to distribute, following the approximate calendar:

- LWA Payments for July 26, 2020 through Aug. 15, 2020
  - Payments began on Sept. 9, 2020, and will continue through Sept. 15, 2020
- LWA Payments for Aug. 16, 2020, through Sept. 5, 2020
  - Payments will begin on Sept. 16, 2020, and continue through Sept. 23, 2020

**If I have a pending application, do I need to apply for LWA and will I receive it once approved?**

No additional application is needed. If an individual has a pending unemployment application and is approved unemployment benefits during the time period of July 26, 2020, through Sept. 5, 2020, they will automatically be considered for the LWA benefit.

**How will I receive payment?**

Payment of the LWA will be made the same way you currently receive your unemployment benefit.