

Lost Wages Assistant (LWA) program

FAQ

Hagåtña, Guam – The Guam Department of Labor (GDOL) will pay out the Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) program throughout December 2020 that will assist thousands of individuals whose jobs have been impacted by the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Here are the answers to common questions about the assistance program as it pertains to Guam.

Q: What is the LWA program?

A: LWA is a federal program that adds \$300 of unemployment benefits for up to six weeks. President Donald Trump established the LWA program, a temporary addition to the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program. It replaces the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program, which expired at the end of July that provided an additional \$600 to unemployment benefits.

Q: How do I know if I'm eligible for LWA benefits?

A: You do not have to call to see if you are eligible. You are eligible if you meet the following requirements:

- Your weekly benefit amount (WBA) of PUA must be at least \$100 between August 1 to September 5, 2020.
- You must certify that your unemployment or partial unemployment (had hours reduced) was due to a reason directly related to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Q: What if my WBA is less due to automatic tax deductions?

A: Your weekly benefit amount (WBA) must be at least \$100. If your WBA is more than \$100 but you receive less than \$100 each week because money is being deducted from your weekly benefit payment, you will still be eligible for the entire \$300.



Q: What time period does LWA cover?

A: LWA is available for six weeks only. The following weeks is what the LWA covers:

- July 7 – August 1
- August 2 – August 8
- August 9 – August 15
- August 16 – August 22
- August 23 – August 29
- August 30 – September 5

Q: Do I have to apply for LWA?

A: No. There is no separate application for LWA. To be included in the LWA batches, claimants must ensure their unemployment application (PUA) are up to date on hireguam.com.

If you went back to work and you were re-furloughed, laid-off, or had reduced hours again due to COVID-19 during the qualifying weeks, be sure to upload your new employer separation notice and recent check stubs.

Q: Will the payments be retroactive?

A: Yes. The weekly payments will be retroactive during the weeks individuals qualify.