Did you lose income from a DC job because of COVID-19? You might be eligible for Unemployment Compensation or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) in the District of Columbia. Legal Aid can help.

Why apply now? At the end of July 2020, one of the temporary COVID-19 unemployment assistance programs, called Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, is ending. This program gives an extra $600/week to those receiving at least $1/week in Unemployment Compensation or PUA.

What is PUA? A weekly wage-replacement program for workers who have lost income because of COVID-19 and are not eligible for regular Unemployment Compensation.

Who may be eligible to get PUA?

- People who are self-employed (like independent contractors and gig workers from Uber/Lyft)
- People who couldn’t start a new job they had been offered because of COVID-19
- People who lost work because they are the primary caretaker of a child whose school or day care closed because of COVID-19
- Others who are not eligible for regular Unemployment Insurance, for example, because they do not have enough wages from the past year

How do I apply?

- First, apply for Unemployment Compensation at dcnetworks.org or 202-724-7000. If your application is denied, you can appeal the decision or apply for PUA.
- To apply for PUA, you must fill out the English language application online at dcdoes.force.com/PUAForm/s/. If you need help navigating this website or submitting your documents, call Legal Aid for help or apply for our help online.

What if I have more questions or have trouble applying?

- Call the Legal Aid Society’s general intake phone number (202-628-1161) OR
- Do an online intake for Legal Aid at legalaiddc.org/online-intake/