

Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:18 PM

Subject: DES NEWS RELEASE: DES Announces Launch of Lost Wages Assistance Program for Unemployed Arizonans

Dear Representatives and Senators,

Governor Ducey and DES announced today that Arizona has implemented the new Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) program to provide unemployment benefits of up to \$540 a week, with \$300 per week provided through grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Arizona received approval on its application to FEMA, and DES began issuing funds to claimants today.

LWA payments will be automatically added to the weekly benefit amount that claimants are currently receiving. Claimants do not need to file a separate application to receive LWA.

The full news release is below. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Kathy Ber, Legislative Director

DES Announces Launch of Lost Wages Assistance Program for Unemployed Arizonans
Arizona Among First States to Make Additional Funding Available

PHOENIX - (August 17, 2020) Governor Doug Ducey and the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) announced today that Arizona has implemented the new Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) program to provide unemployment benefits of up to \$540 a week, with \$300 per week provided through grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Arizona received approval on its application to FEMA, and DES began issuing funds to claimants today.

On August 8, 2020, President Trump issued the Memorandum on Authorizing the Other Needs Assistance Program for Major Disaster Declarations Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019. This memorandum establishes LWA, which allows for temporary enhanced financial support to those whose jobs or wages have been adversely affected by COVID-19. LWA provides \$300 per week to an eligible individual, in addition to the weekly benefit amount they receive from certain other Unemployment Compensation programs.

Arizonans who are unemployed or partially unemployed due to COVID-19 and are currently receiving unemployment benefits from one of the following programs will be eligible to receive up to \$540 a week, including \$300 a week in LWA funds funded by FEMA:

- Unemployment Insurance (UI)
- Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE)
- Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemembers (UCX)
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
- Extended Benefits (EB)

- Shared Work (SW)
- Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA)

LWA remains in effect until one of the following occurs:

- Enactment of federal legislation providing, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, supplemental Federal unemployment compensation, or similar compensation, for unemployed or underemployed individuals;
- The \$44 billion from the Disaster Relief Fund designated for LWA is exhausted;
- The Federal Disaster Relief Fund Balance reaches \$25 billion; or
- The benefit week ending December 5, 2020 is reached

LWA payments will be automatically added to the weekly benefit amount that claimants are currently receiving. Claimants do not need to file a separate application to receive LWA. The Department will make the LWA payments in the same manner as any payment from one of the above-listed programs payable for the week involved for all participating claimants. For claimants that certify multiple weeks, either LWA or Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation will be applied depending on the time of the certification. The \$300 LWA payment is subject to both federal and state income taxes.

Visit www.azui.com to learn more about Arizona Unemployment Benefits and for additional updates and information about unemployment assistance programs in Arizona.

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