



Dear Taxi Industry:

We received the following information from the Unemployment Insurance Branch in regards to individuals who under regular circumstances are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits:

- **"Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)** provides up to 39 weeks of payment for individuals who are not eligible for regular Unemployment Insurance (UI), extended benefits, or Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) benefits and whose work or self-employment was interrupted due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

This new program under the CARES Act requires automation programming, new policies and procedures, and new forms and notifications. The UI Branch is working closely with the Information Technology Branch to do the required programming and we are working around the clock to get these programs implemented. Details regarding each program will be issued as the programs are ready to be released. Customers should access [EDD web pages](#) as they are being regularly updated to provide the public the latest information and instructions.

### **PUA PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

This program will provide up to 39 weeks of benefits and will be available starting with weeks of unemployment beginning on or after week ending date February 8, 2020 and ending on or before December 31, 2020.

This program will cover individuals who are self-employed, seeking part-time employment, or whom otherwise would not qualify for regular UI or PEUC benefits. Coverage will also include individuals who have exhausted all rights to regular UI or PEUC.

Customers must be advised of the following:

- The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance is a brand new program.
- The EDD is working quickly to implement the programming needed to enact this new program.
- Regularly check the EDD Coronavirus web pages for updates and instructions regarding these programs. If you are self-employed, do **NOT** file a regular UI claim at this time. Instructions will be made available on the EDD website once the program is implemented informing customers how to apply for the PUA benefits.