

How To File Pandemic Stimulus and Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Claims for Self-Employed or "Gig Workers" in WA

~Compliments of Peggy Star with the Affirmative Action Alliance~

First,

- You will need to file a 2019 federal income tax return showing your self-employment earnings.
- As a freelancer, independent contractor, gig worker or other self-employed person, you can file your federal tax return using your first and last name and home address. There is no need for a separate business name.
- As long as the total income amount is **less than \$400** you are not required to file a federal income tax return and the only reason you are doing it now is because you need the proof of income which will be required for your unemployment claim.
- If total income amount is **less than \$400** you will **not** be required to pay 15.3% self-employment tax and may even get a few bucks back as a refund from the government. 😊
- Remember, as long as you made a MINIMUM of \$1 per week you are eligible for self-employment unemployment benefits and in most cases this will result in payments totaling around EIGHTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS MINIMUM!
- Use this site to quickly/easily file a federal income tax return for **FREE!** <https://www.freetaxusa.com>
- Be sure to save your federal tax return as a .PDF as you will need to submit it with unemployment claim.

FreeTaxUSA



BONUS: Filing your 2019 federal income tax return will also make you eligible for the last \$1,200 economic impact payment **and** any future ones that are issued. We'll cover that too, it's easy and fast!

Second,

For Washington residents, go to Washington State Unemployment <https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment>

Affected by COVID-19

- The federal CARES Act expands unemployment benefits to people affected by COVID-19. If you are not eligible for regular unemployment, learn more about Pandemic Unemployment Assistance here:

Self-employed and independent contractors Learn more	Sick, or caring for a family member? Learn more	Lost work or part-time worker? Learn more
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An arrow points from the 'Self-employed and independent contractors' box to the text below.

- Follow the instructions on the website for **“self-employed and independent contractors”**.
- Use a laptop or desktop computer (**not mobile phone**) Chrome seems to be less “buggy” than Firefox or Safari.
- There is little to no telephone support so go slow and follow the instructions, watch the video and use the checklists and guides. Most of the pertinent information is here: <https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment/UI-one-stop>
- Here’s the basic steps:
 - First: File for regular unemployment. If you haven’t had a “regular job” - you will likely be ineligible, it's ok.
 - Next: File for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). This is when you will need to upload your 2019 federal income tax return information such as your Schedule “C”.
- Ongoing: Each Sunday, (*set a reminder!*) submit your weekly claim to get paid via direct deposit or debit card. Be sure to start the Sunday after you submit your claim, even if it hasn’t been approved yet. Weekly claims can easily be made using your mobile phone or tablet.

- If your business income (*aka Gig*) was affected since the beginning of pandemic, your claim can go back as far as 3/8/2020. You will receive all back pay as long as you file all the individual weekly claims for those weeks.
- Once you submit your application for expanded benefits, or “PUA Claim,” you can then submit for previous weeks you were owed after you became eligible . It’s a tedious process, just keep submitting claims until the alert in your account **stops** showing - “you have a weekly claim to file”.
- Be patient, it will take time for all past weeks to get paid. Remember, if your PUA claim is approved your retroactive payments will eventually be made.
- Keep an eye on your email or log into your account as there will be a form you will need to sign and return about “part-time worker”. Check mark it, sign it and fax or mail it back to them. Do both email & fax to be safe.
- You can claim unemployment for approximately 30 weeks (may differ depending on your circumstances). Weekly payment will be \$235 + \$600 kicked in by federal government for weeks of March 29 – July 25 (17 weeks). This government payment will likely be extended once the ass clowns in Washington DC can get their act together.
- So, as of right now, here is the calculated amount (based on 30 weeks at \$600 each CARES payments):

\$235 x 30 weeks =	\$ 7,050
\$600 x 17 weeks =	<u>\$10,200</u>
Total	\$17,250
- If you run into communications issues with the unemployment office go to <https://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/> to find your legislative district representative to email and ask them for help. They seem to have some influence.

How to Get Your \$1,200 Stimulus Payment From The IRS

Who is eligible for the Economic Impact Payment?

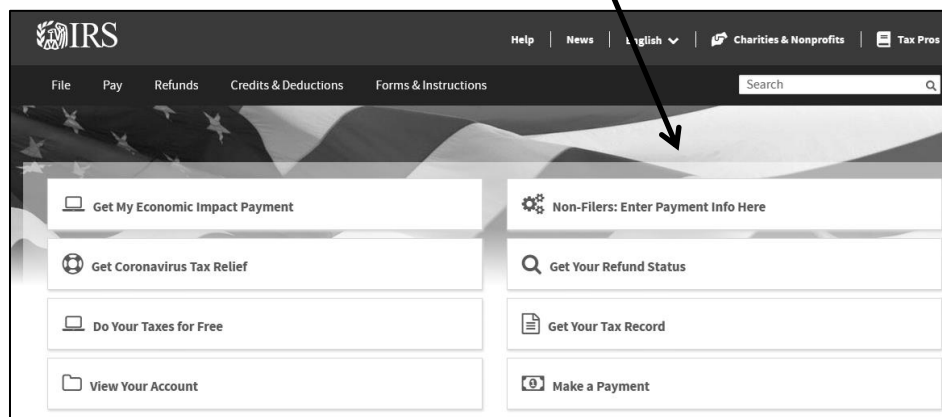
U.S. citizens, permanent residents and qualifying resident aliens who:

- Have a valid Social Security number,
- Could not be claimed as a dependent of another taxpayer, and
- Had adjusted gross income under certain limits.

You are not required to file a federal income tax return for 2019 for any reason including:

- You are **NOT** planning to file for self-employment unemployment insurance (PUA).
- Your income is less than \$12,200
- You’re married filing jointly and together your income is less than \$24,400
- You have no income

If those 4 statements are true: **Use the “Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info here”** button to get your last \$1,200 economic impact payment from the IRS as well any future ones.



PLEASE NOTE: If you file a 2019 “Non-Filer” tax return and then decide to file for self-employment unemployment, you will have to file an **Amended** 2019 federal tax return. Save yourself the hassle and file a regular 2019 income tax return using <https://www.freetaxusa.com>. You will then have all the required documents to file a PUA claim **and** you will also be eligible to receive any and all IRS stimulus payments.