

Unemployment Update from Dawn 3-19-21

As many of you may have seen, the Louisiana Unemployment site has been down since Sunday so they could apply the new rules of the recent Act. It came back up at noon Wednesday and got immediately slammed.

If you log in and it requires you to file a new claim to make a weekly certification, you can try to call and do your certification over the phone 866-783-5567. If you opened a claim 3/14/2020 or earlier, then your claim has hit the annual expiration date and you have to file a new claim. The easiest way to figure out if you have hit your one year mark is to look in your message center in HiRE. Look for the Monetary Determination that would have been in March or April when you started your claim. The date may also be able to be figured out by looking for the Profile Update messages. This is also from about the time you started your claim.

Here is the message that is in your dashboard (I had to dig around to find this)

[HiRE Updated to Accommodate New Extended Benefits](#)

Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) HiRE system is now available with additional programming to provide for a more seamless transition into new Unemployment Insurance benefits available through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP). A 72-hour system shutdown was mandatory for programming and testing to improve system functionality and claims processing.

LWC has made the following changes for Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) impacted by ARP. All PEUC and PUA claims have been updated to reflect the new program end date (9/4/2021).

What does this mean to you? (see below for which option applies to you)

- o If you are **actively filing** your weekly certification and you are receiving PUA or PEUC benefits, continue filing your weekly certification. **There is no need to file another claim.**

- o If you **have a balance on your claim**, you will continue to receive payments from your existing claim.
- o If you **no longer have a balance on your claim**, when you file your weekly certification for week ending 3/13/2021, the system will create an additional claim for you to access the benefits from the ARP. You will have an additional 29 weeks available on this claim. You do not need to file another claim to receive these benefits if you file your weekly certification for week ending 3/13/2021.
- o If you **previously received all of your funds and you have stopped filing for benefits**, you will need to file another claim to access the benefits from the American Rescue Plan if you are still unemployed.

Things you may notice and what should you do:

- o If a monetary ineligible claim is generated when you file a claim - Staff are reviewing these claims for accuracy. You do not need to contact us. Check your HiRE accounts for updates. Staff will be reviewing these claims daily following implementation.
- o Identity verification request – The ARP legislation requires us to verify identity on all new claims; therefore, the new ARP claims are currently requiring ID verification. Staff will be reviewing these daily for prior verification. If we have already verified your identity, this issue will be resolved on your claim in 24-48 hours. You do not need to contact us.
- o You have filed your weekly certification for week ending 3/13/2021 but you do not see the new claim established -- If you have a remaining balance, you will not see this claim until all benefits have been paid out on your existing claim. These claim updates will be in place by Saturday, March 20, 2021 prior to filing for week ending 3/20/2021. Check your claim in HiRE again Saturday.

Before you file your weekly certification or to file the claim,

1. Go to your claim summary. Copy and paste the contents of the ENTIRE claim summary by highlighting everything on the page

(Claimant Details down through the employment history) and pasting it into a document or email. Email it to yourself. For most people, if the week ending on your claim now says 9/4/2021, you should be ok, however if there have been any past issues with your claim that they have made adjustments, they are causing your account to be problematic. Also if you only had one week left to pay out on your claim, many of you are being asked to refile your claim.

2. Then click on File a Weekly Certification
3. File the Weekly Certification. If when you finish it, it says to open a new claim, per above, it says it is okay to do so, however, go back to the claim summary and make a copy again so it shows your weekly certification was completed.
4. When you are refiling your claim, make sure to have your last date worked and any paystubs since the last time you filed. New refiling instructions are updated and attached in 2 parts.
5. You **ARE filing due to COVID pandemic**. Usually there would be enough work that you would not be filing. Choose COVID-ARP when picking the disaster issue.
6. When you get to the work reporting, just worry about the most recent thing you worked to report it.
7. Once again. PLEASE DO NOT delete anything that may be in your message center.

Please EMAIL only if you need assistance. sect@iatse478.org Be sure to include your username and password as well as your phone number if we need to call you.

May the odds be ever in your favor!