

Extended Benefits (EB): Frequently Asked Questions

What is Extended Benefits (EB)?

Extended Benefits (EB) is an extension program that is available when a state is at high unemployment. The average unemployment rate is reviewed over a 3-month period to determine if the state goes onto this extension. This extension pays whichever is less— 20 weeks or 80% of the regular claim's Maximum Benefit Amount at the individual's current weekly benefit amount.

How long will EB last?

EB will be available until Oregon reaches a 3-month average total unemployment rate that is below 6.5%. Individuals receiving EB will be notified in writing when Oregon EB is over.

I live in Oregon and had a claim here last year, but my most recent valid claim was filed in Idaho. Where do I file EB?

You file EB in the state where you established your most recent valid claim. In this case, you would contact Idaho to file EB.

I'm eligible for a new regular claim, but my old claim had a much higher Weekly Benefit Amount. Can I file EB on my old claim?

No. EB can only be filed on the most recent valid claim if you have no other eligibility in Oregon or any other state.

Can I choose between Extended Benefits and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)?

No, PUA is only available if you do not qualify for a regular unemployment insurance claim or any extensions.

How do I know if I am eligible for EB?

We will notify you in the mail that you can apply for this extension if your claim balance reaches zero (0) and you may be eligible for EB.

How and when do I apply for EB?

Apply by calling 1-877-345-3484 when your Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (available through the week ending December 26, 2020) benefits reach a zero (0) balance or when your regular UI claim reaches a 0 balance (after December 26, 2020). You cannot apply for this extension if you still have other regular benefits available.

My PEUC balance is at zero (0), but I haven't been able to speak to anyone yet about EB. Should I wait to file another week of benefits until I can apply for EB?

No. Keep filing weekly claims while unemployed or partially employed. We may be able to file EB on your behalf, back to the week following exhaustion of the previous program.

Do I have a new waiting week on EB?

No. EB does not have a separate waiting week.

How is my benefit amount determined?

EB is paid at the same rate of pay as your regular claim. Your weekly benefit amount is 1.25% of your total base year gross earnings. Under Oregon law, it will not be less than the minimum or more than the maximum amounts you can receive. Currently, the weekly minimum is \$157 and the weekly maximum is \$673.

The base year is a 12-month period made up of the first four of the last five completed quarters. It's based on the date you file your claim application, not the date you become unemployed. If you don't qualify for a claim using a regular base year we will automatically review your claim to see if you qualify for an alternate base year.

A calendar quarter is a 3-month period ending March 31, June 30, September 30, or December 31.

Are there any special requirements for EB?

Yes. Individuals receiving EB must be willing to accept work they are capable of performing that pays at least the state minimum wage, or an amount over your weekly benefit amount. If you turn down work offered under these conditions, you will be denied benefits until you work in four (4) separate weeks and earn four times your weekly benefit amount. Working in self-employment will not satisfy this requirement.

What are my work search requirements while receiving EB?

EB does have special work seeking requirements, however, you can continue following the guidance provided by the department and our COVID-19 temporary rules. We will notify you of new work search requirements once the COVID-19 temporary rules expire or are no longer in effect.

I have an Oregon claim, but live in a state that does not have EB available. Can I still receive this benefit?

Individuals who live in a state that has not triggered EB are only entitled to receive two weeks of EB. You could become eligible to receive additional EB benefits if your state later initiates the extension.

What happens if I run out of EB benefits and still haven't found a job?

If you exhaust EB and are not eligible for a new claim in Oregon or any other state, you may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). PUA is available through the week ending December 26, 2020. You can apply for this program on our [PUA CARES Act](#) page.

I don't qualify for an EB because I didn't earn enough in my base year, can I get other benefits?

You may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). PUA is available through the week ending December 26, 2020. You can apply for this program on our [PUA CARES Act](#) page.

I got a document in the mail saying my EB benefit amount has been reduced. Why?

Generally, EB provides either 13 or 20 weeks of benefits, depending on the unemployment rate when the extension becomes available. If an individual is initially eligible for 20 weeks of benefits and the unemployment rate improves, some individuals will see a reduction in benefits accordingly. In this case, the Employment Department will send written notification to all who are affected.