

DC Council Passes Emergency Legislation to Extend Unemployment Benefits



Friday, October 23, 2020

Pandemic Unemployment Benefits Extended for Seven Weeks

Earlier this year, the DC Council enacted Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), which gave additional unemployment benefits to District workers that were unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The initial program, set for 39 weeks, was due to expire this week; however, this week, the Council unanimously passed the Unemployment Benefits Extension Emergency Act of 2020, allowing the District government to provide seven additional weeks of unemployment benefits during a high unemployment period to all District workers, including those not served by traditional Unemployment Insurance (UI).

The emergency legislation also extends traditional UI for an additional 7 weeks. Currently, UI claimants can apply to extend their initial 26 weeks of benefits for up to one year (52 weeks) with two 13-week extension programs. With the emergency legislation, UI claimants will be eligible for up to 59 weeks of benefits.

The additional weeks of benefits are fully paid for by the federal government through December 31, 2020 with funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Regards,
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