

## Notice re/ Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

April 2020

On March 27, 2020, the **Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act** was signed into law.

*This Act includes the provision of Unemployment Benefits for individuals who are not otherwise eligible for regular unemployment insurance coverage, including those working for religious organizations (such as the Archdiocese of New Orleans and the parishes, schools and some of the Agencies in our Archdiocese) which, as non-profit religious organizations are exempt from standard unemployment compensation programs.*

This coverage is referred to as **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (“PUA”)**, and it provides up to 39 weeks of benefits to qualifying individuals who are otherwise available to work and are able to work, except that they are unemployed, partially unemployed or unable or available to work due to one of the following COVID-19 related reasons:

- The individual’s place of employment is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 emergency.
- The individual has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and is seeking a medical diagnosis;
- A member of the individual’s household has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- The individual is providing care for a family member, or a member of the individual’s household, who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- A child or other person in the household for which the individual has primary caregiving responsibility is unable to attend school, or another facility, that is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;
- The individual is unable to reach the place of employment because of quarantine imposed as a direct result of the COVID-19 emergency;
- The individual is unable to reach the place of employment because the individual has been advised by a healthcare provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19;
- The individual was scheduled to begin employment and does not have a job or is unable to reach the job, as a direct result of the COVID-19 emergency;
- The individual has become the breadwinner or major support for a household because the head of the household has died as a direct result of COVID-19;
- The individual has had to quit his or her job as a direct result of COVID-19.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance is payable for weeks of unemployment, partial unemployment, or inability to work caused by the COVID-19 related reasons listed above beginning *on or after January 27, 2020*. Additionally, individuals who are eligible to receive Pandemic Unemployment Assistance are also eligible to receive an additional \$600 per week for the weeks of unemployment beginning on or after March 27, 2020 and ending on or before July 31, 2020.

To begin your application, you can file online at the **Louisiana Workforce Commission website: [www.louisianaworks.net/hire](http://www.louisianaworks.net/hire)** or by calling the Claim Center at 866-783-5567. Inquiries about your employment income can be addressed primarily by using your W-2 form for 2019, and your payroll information as to the income you received in 2020. *If you had any employment income in addition to that received from the Diocese, Parish, School or Agency, that should be included as well.*

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**A NOTE ABOUT FRAUD:**

In applying for these unemployment benefits, ***you will be required to self-certify to your eligibility*** under one (or more) of the COVID-19 reasons listed above. The United States Department of Labor has warned that quitting work without good cause in order to collect these benefits is fraud for which an individual can be criminally prosecuted and, of course, certifying to the existence of a COVID-19 related reason when it was not present would also be fraudulent.



To apply for benefits, visit **Louisiana Workforce Commission website:**  
**[www.louisianaworks.net/hire](http://www.louisianaworks.net/hire)**  
or call the Claim Center at 866-783-5567