

South Dakota Department of Labor & Regulation
123 W. Missouri Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
dlr.sd.gov

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, April 20, 2021
Media Contact: [Dawn Dovre](mailto:Dawn.Dovre@dlr.sd.gov) or 605-773-3101

Labor Department Outlines Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Eligibility Extensions

PIERRE, S.D. – The Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) has reviewed guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Labor to expand Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) eligibility.

Three new reasons have been added under which an individual directly affected by the COVID-19 public health emergency may self-certify:

- Individuals who refuse to return to work that is unsafe or to accept an offer of new work that is unsafe.
- Certain individuals providing services to educational institutions or educational service agencies.
- Individuals experiencing a reduction of hours or a temporary or permanent layoff.

Benefits may be paid retroactively to claimants who had or have an existing claim since the beginning of the PUA program, which was enacted under the CARES Act on March 27, 2020.

Those who did not apply for PUA, but may be eligible, can request retroactive payments for the week ending Dec. 6, 2020, and forward. All information is subject to verification. To view details and criteria for eligibility, visit https://dlr.sd.gov/ra/pua_coverage.aspx.

PUA benefits are provided through federal funds. Criminal and/or civil penalties for violation of federal and/or state laws will be enforced for willfully making false statements or concealing information to obtain or increase PUA benefits.