



What happens when Maine's Unemployment Extended Benefit Program (EB) ends?

Q. Maine's Unemployment Extended Benefit Program (EB) is no longer available. Can I still get unemployment benefits?

A. Maybe. You may still be able to get unemployment benefits if you are eligible for one of these programs:

1. Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). You may be able to get PUA benefits if you are out of work as a result of COVID-19. PUA is available for a total of 39 weeks. If you have already used some weeks of PUA benefits, these will be deducted from your 39 weeks.

Unless it is extended by the Federal Government, PUA is only available until the week ending 12/26/20.

Here's an example: if you got 20 weeks of regular UI and 10 weeks of EB, you may be eligible for up to 9 weeks of PUA if you are out of work for a COVID-19 related reason.

Here is the list of COVID-19 related reasons that may make you eligible for PUA: <https://www.maine.gov/unemployment/docs/2020/pua2020/PandemicUnemploymentAssistanceProgramDOL.pdf>

If you have not already applied for PUA, you will need to fill out a PUA application when your EB ends. Call the Department of Labor and ask to apply for PUA.

2. Dislocated Worker Benefits. You may be eligible for up to 26 weeks of additional unemployment benefits if you are a "dislocated worker" in an "approved" training program. You are a "dislocated worker" if:

- You were laid off by your employer because of "reduced operations" at your workplace.
or
- You lost your job due to a plant closing.
or
- You are "long-term unemployed" and it is unlikely that you will be able to find work in your previous occupation.

If you meet this definition, you must be in a training program that is “approved” by the Department of Labor. For more information about the Dislocated Worker Program, call your local Career Center.

3. Trade Readjustment Assistance. This is a program that provides additional weeks of UI-like benefit to people in a qualified training program. It is for workers who have lost their jobs (or become partially unemployed) as a result of foreign competition. You must have lost your job from a plant that was certified as eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance. Check here to see if your employer was certified for Trade Adjustment Assistance:
https://www.doleta.gov/tradeact/petitioners/taa_search_form.cfm

Look here for a list of Maine Career Centers with their contact information:
<https://mainecareercenter.gov/locations/index.shtml>

Q. What if I am not eligible for any more unemployment benefits, is there other help?

A. You may be eligible for a program at the Department of Health and Human Services to help you access health care, food or basic income. Check here for a list of those programs: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/programs-services>
Or you can call 211 Maine and ask for their help finding a program or service that meets your needs. To reach them dial 211 or 1-866-811-5695. You can also send them a question at: <https://211maine.org/contact/>