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**Department
of Labor**

LOST WAGES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FAQs

Q: IS THE LOST WAGES ASSISTANCE (LWA) PROGRAM FOR NEW YORKERS RECEIVING TRADITIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) OR PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA)?

A: Both traditional UI and PUA recipients may be eligible for additional benefits under the LWA program. The DOL is actively working to administer this program, including how to certify your eligibility for these additional benefits. We will notify claimants directly if they must take any action to certify and receive these additional benefits.

Q: WHEN WILL I GET MY MONEY?

A: New York State is working to implement this program as quickly as possible. There is no need to call the DOL at this time — we will contact claimants with additional information when the program is able to launch. In the meantime, per federal law please continue to certify weekly to ensure you receive all benefits to which you are entitled.

Q: IF MY WEEKLY BENEFIT IS LESS THAN \$100 BECAUSE OF TAXES OR BECAUSE I WORKED ONE OR MORE DAYS IN A GIVEN WEEK, WILL I RECEIVE THE LWA PAYMENT?

A: The LWA program's \$100 cutoff is based on a claimant's benefit base rate, which is calculated before any deductions or reductions. Because the minimum weekly benefit rate in New York is \$104 for UI and \$182 for PUA, all claimants in New York are above the \$100 cutoff. That means you can still qualify for the \$300 LWA payment if your UI or PUA payment in a given week is below \$100 because of taxes, part-time work, or other reductions. However, there may be additional criteria the federal government will require New Yorkers meet to qualify for funds — the DOL will contact claimants directly when that process is established.

Q: HOW MANY PAYMENTS WILL BE COMING AND FOR WHAT DATES?

A: It is unclear at this time how many weeks of payments will ultimately be released by the federal government. FEMA initially approved states for the first three weeks of the program, which is retroactive to August 1st — in New York, that means the benefit weeks ending August 2nd, August 9th, and August 16th. After those funds are disbursed, additional weeks of benefits can be released by FEMA. Under federal guidelines, funding for the LWA program will continue until any of the following occur:

1. The federal Disaster Relief Fund balance falls below \$25 billion;
2. The \$44 billion set aside for the LWA program is depleted; OR
3. Congress enacts a replacement unemployment relief program.

If none of the above scenarios occur before December 27, 2020, funding will terminate on that date.