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Mail Date: June 28, 2021

CLM: [Redacted]
Name: [Redacted]

**Notice of Expanded Eligibility Reasons for
Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)**

Immediate Action Required

Date: 06/28/2021

Attention: [Redacted]

The Unemployment Insurance Agency's (UIA) records show that you are currently receiving or previously received Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA).

To be eligible for PUA benefits, individuals cannot be entitled to benefits on any other program and must be unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable or unavailable to work as a direct result of COVID-19. Acceptable COVID-19 related reasons for purposes of qualifying for PUA are only those approved by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL).

At the inception of the PUA program in Michigan, UIA included four reasons that were not provided or approved by USDOL in its original application and continued claim filing (certification). As a result, individuals who selected one of the non-qualifying reasons were allowed PUA and paid benefits. UIA is now required to re-evaluate PUA eligibility for these individuals.

In your filing or certification, you selected one or more of the four non-qualifying reasons for PUA. These reasons included:

- Your work hours have been reduced as a direct result of COVID-19.
- You are seeking part-time employment and affected by COVID-19.
- You have insufficient work history to qualify for regular unemployment compensation and are affected by COVID-19.
- You are unemployed or working less than regular hours as a result of COVID-19 and were denied benefits on another claim.

On February 25, 2021, the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) added three new reasons that individuals may qualify for PUA. The full list of COVID-19 PUA eligibility reasons approved by USDOL are listed below:

Continuing COVID-19 related reasons:

- I have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or am experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and am seeking a medical diagnosis.
- A member of my household has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

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- I am providing care for a family member or a member of my household who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- A child or other person in my household for which I am the primary caregiver is unable to attend school or another facility that is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency and such school or facility care is required for me to work.
- I am unable to reach my place of employment because of a quarantine imposed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- I am unable to reach my place of employment because I have been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19.
- I was scheduled to commence employment and do not have a job or am unable to reach the job as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- I have become the breadwinner or major support for my household because the head of the household has died as a direct result of COVID-19.
- I quit my job as a direct result of COVID-19.
- My place of employment is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- I am self-employed (including an independent contractor and gig worker) and experienced a significant reduction of my customary or usual services because of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

New COVID-19 related reasons:

- I was denied continued unemployment benefits because I refused to return to work or accept an offer of work at a worksite that, in either instance, is not in compliance with local, state, or national health and safety standards directly related to COVID-19. This includes but is not limited to those related to facial mask wearing, physical distancing measures, or the provision of personal protective equipment consistent with public health guidelines.
- I provide services to an educational institution or educational service agency and am unemployed or partially unemployed because of volatility in the work scheduled that is directly caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency. This includes, but is not limited to, changes in schedules and partial closures.
- I am an employee and my hours have been reduced or I was laid off as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- None of the above apply to me.

As a result of the expanded COVID-19 related reasons, you may be eligible for PUA based on one of the approved qualifying reasons.

What Happens Next

As part of your claim re-evaluation, you have an opportunity to provide a new self-attestation of your PUA eligibility. You must resubmit your self-attestation based on the updated list of PUA COVID-19 related eligibility reasons for UIA to determine your eligibility. Your self-attestation must be received within 20 days of the above issue date of this notice. If you do not provide a new self-attestation, your claim will be re-evaluated based on the non-qualifying reasons previously provided.

How to Provide Your Self-Attestation

To resubmit your self - attestation, log into your Michigan Web Account Manager (MiWAM) and click on the "Requalify for PUA" link under the Alerts tab. When providing your self-attestation, you can select more

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than one COVID-19 related reason. Select as many reasons as apply to your situation. However, your selection should be truthful. Do not select a reason that does not apply to you directly.

If you provide updated self-attestations in response to a continued claim filing (certification) for more than one week, you do not have to select the same reason(s) each week. It is possible that your situation may change over time. If this happens, you should select the appropriate COVID-19 related reason that applies to your situation for the week you are certifying. Your selection for each week should be truthful and accurate based on your situation at that time. If no COVID-19 related reason applies, you should select that none of the reasons apply to you for that week.

Once your updated self-attestation of eligibility is received and processed, it will be evaluated, and a redetermination will be issued to notify you of your eligibility. If you are eligible for benefits, you will be paid. If it is found that you are not eligible, you can file an appeal of the redetermination.

If it is redetermined that you do not qualify for PUA and you owe restitution for benefits improperly paid to you, UIA will also evaluate the overpayment to determine if the overpayment should be waived so that you do not have to pay the restitution. If you owe restitution and are granted a waiver, UIA will issue a separate determination notifying you of both.

Other Important Information About PUA

PUA claimants who are entitled to benefits are required to submit proof of employment or self-employment. You may have already received an employment verification request which included your deadline for response, how to submit your proof, and examples of documents that you can provide to prove employment.

If you do not submit the proof or if the proof is not sufficient to establish that you were employed or self-employed, your PUA benefits will be stopped and you may have to repay PUA benefits that you already received.

In addition to proof of employment, you must verify your identity if you have not already been required to do so. You will receive a separate request to verify your identity. You will have 10 days from the date of the notice to submit the documents.

If you do not respond or the documents are not sufficient to verify your identity, your benefits will be stopped, and you may be required to repay benefits already received. The notice will provide additional information and instructions on how to submit your verification, including acceptable examples of proof.

Contacting UIA

Visit our website at www.michigan.gov/uia to access your MiWAM account to Chat with an agent or send UIA a message. You can also contact UIA by phone at 1-866-500-0017 or TTY assistance at 1-866-366-0004.

Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency

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