



**ALERT** - Independent contractors and self-employed workers can apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance beginning Friday, April 24. Read important information before applying.

Dear Friend,

## STARTING TODAY - Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

According to the North Carolina Department of Employment Security's website:

"North Carolina independent contractors and self-employed workers out of work because of COVID-19 can apply for federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance beginning today, Friday, April 24 at [des.nc.gov](https://des.nc.gov).

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, or PUA, is a federal program for people who are unable to work as a result of COVID-19 and not eligible for regular state unemployment benefits, such as self-employed workers and independent contractors.

### What is PUA?

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, or PUA, is a federal program for people who are unable to work as a direct result of COVID-19 and are not eligible for regular state unemployment benefits, such as independent contractors or self-employed workers.

### How to Apply

Apply at [des.nc.gov](https://des.nc.gov) beginning today, April 24, 2020.

- If you applied and were denied for state unemployment benefits before April 24, we may need additional information to determine whether you are eligible for PUA. Sign into your online account and click on the 'Apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance' link to complete the process. If your claim is listed as 'pending,' we are still reviewing your eligibility for state unemployment benefits. You may not apply for PUA while your claim is pending.
- **Please note:** If you are currently receiving state unemployment benefits, you are not eligible for PUA."

Please share this information.

Sincerely,

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Source: <https://des.nc.gov/>

