BELOW IS INFORMATION THAT MAY BE HELPFUL WHILE YOU ARE APPLYING FOR PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA) IN CALIFORNIA AMID COVID-19 CONCERNS.

Please note, the information below is not intended to provide, and does not constitute, legal advice. It is for general informational purposes only. If you have a specific question about your situation, please reach out to a non-profit legal service provider.

A. Here is a list of documents or information to have on hand before you apply for PUA:
   - Your social security number
   - The date you last filed for unemployment insurance, if you ever have
   - Your driver's license

B. Before you submit your application, consider the following:
   - If you have applied for Unemployment Insurance (UI) and appealed, the Employment Development Department (EDD) is directing workers to continue their UI application before submitting a PUA application.
   - In addition, you may be ineligible for PUA (for now) if you:
     - Have been awarded UI and are receiving benefits, or
     - If you have some W-2 wages reported to the EDD that would make you eligible for UI (e.g., making more than $1,300 in a three month period in 2019).
   - If either situation above applies, continue with your UI application. Workers who exhaust their UI benefits may be able to apply for PUA after.
   - Finally, to be eligible for PUA, workers must have a COVID-19 reason for their unemployment (or underemployment). For rideshare drivers or other platform workers, some of those reasons are:
     - A significant downturn in work because of COVID-19 (may be the most likely reason); or
     - Being a primary caregiver for a child whose childcare or school was closed because of COVID-19; a member of your household has COVID-19; you have COVID-19, and more.

C. Starting the application:
   - Apply online here: [https://edd.ca.gov/Benefit_Programs_Online.htm](https://edd.ca.gov/Benefit_Programs_Online.htm)
     - Note: This is the same website that you may have used if you already applied for Unemployment Insurance. However, the responses you provide, as described below, are what indicate to EDD that you have applied for PUA.

D. Some other notes for when you apply:
   - “General Information” Page:
     - Complete the “General Information” section as directed. IMPORTANTLY, be sure to indicate to EDD whether you have filed for Unemployment Insurance earlier this year.
Workers without a permanent address, including those residing in their vehicles, can use **General Delivery** through USPS. General Delivery allows these workers to pick up their mail at their local USPS office. When prompted to provide an address, enter “General Delivery” in the street address line, and include the city, state, and zip code as appropriate. Workers using this method should continue tracking their claims online.

- **“Last Employer” Page:**
  - When you reach the “Last Employer Information” section of the application, answer “No” when asked if you worked for an employer in the last 18 months.

**REMEMBER:** By applying for PUA, workers are indicating that they do not have sufficient “employment” wages to be considered eligible for UI, which is why a worker would indicate that they have not had an employer in the last 18 months. **If a worker has had**
Information Regarding the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Application for Workers at App-Based Companies in California

a W-2 employer and received significant wages (e.g., over $1,300 in a three month period in 2019) they should continue with their existing UI claim or apply for UI.

- **“Availability Information” Page:**
  - On this page, a worker indicates information about the work they normally perform, what work they can perform, as well as if they are ready and willing to accept work.
  - Workers who drive for Uber and Lyft, for example, can indicate that they are a “Car Driver” when answering the “What type of work do you normally perform” question.
  - **IMPORTANTLY:** For a PUA application, workers should answer “No” to question 7 which asks: “Are you currently self-employed (have your own business or work as an independent contractor) or plan to become self-employed? If you are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, click No.”

- From here, the application then moves on to ask about whether your unemployment was the result of a natural disaster, how much you earned in 2019, and how you were impacted by COVID-19
  - **Natural Disaster:** Select “Yes” and you have the option to select “COVID-19” as the disaster effecting your employment.
  - **Wages:** For question “1a.1” input your NET wages earned in 2019. You are self-certifying your wages in this section, but be ready with information that proves what wages you earned. This is essential if you want to increase your award.
  - **Date of Unemployment:** List the date you became unemployed. Your application will be back-dated to that date.
On the same page, you’ll then be directed to select how you’ve been impacted by COVID-19.

- **Impacted by COVID-19:** EDD has indicated that “gig workers” should select the options that say “You are an independent contractor with reportable income (ex. IRS Form 1099) and you are forced to stop working because COVID-19 has severely limited your ability to continue performing your customary work activities.” The agency has publicly noted that no response to this application will jeopardize any future employment classification determinations.

- **REMEMBER:** There are other valid COVID-19 reasons you may select if they apply to you. Review the list carefully if another situation applies.
• When you’re complete, be sure to review the summary screen for accuracy.

E. After you apply

• After submitting your application, collect documents confirming your wage history.
• If possible, collect as much as 18 months of earnings information for ALL app-based work from any source (e.g., screenshots of Lyft summaries on the app).
• If you can’t gather pay information from the company, you can rely on bank deposit records. For example, Uber deposits may appear as “Uber, Inc.” or “Rasier LLC.”
• After you submit your application, respond to any information from EDD, especially to provide the wage information you collected.
• Reach out to a legal service provider through the Coalition of Low Wage and Immigrant Worker Advocates (www.cliwa.org) if you have questions.