

This is a guide for each member of our local when signing up for Unemployment Compensation (UC) benefits. Before you can start the application, you will either have to verify your identity through the ID.me website (the UC application process will automatically take you to that website) or you will have to make your application by phone or in person.

This guide covers the more difficult questions in the application for rank and file members to complete.

You will find the various ways to apply in the attached flyer. Please read the flyer carefully before you start your application.

# UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

## FREE INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE



### What is Unemployment Compensation (UC)?

The Unemployment Compensation (UC) program provides temporary income for eligible employees who lose their job or have their hours reduced through no fault of their own. PA workers pay taxes into the program, which is intended to help them meet expenses while they seek new employment, with benefits based on a percentage of previous wages.

### PA workers may be eligible for UC if they...

- were laid off off by their employer or had their hours reduced.
- were terminated, but not because of intentional wrongdoing.
- voluntarily left work because of necessary and compelling reasons, such as health, safety, or significant changes in work conditions.
- are able, available, and legally authorized to work in the US.

### What kinds of workers are eligible?

Most employees who receive W2 tax forms are eligible. Many construction workers and "gig workers" employed by businesses such as ride share companies and delivery services are also eligible, including some called "independent contractors" by their employers. If you're not sure, apply anyway! For every application, UC reviews the specific facts of each case.

## Filing claims for Unemployment Compensation (UC)

To file a claim online at the PA UC website, go to [benefits.uc.pa.gov](https://benefits.uc.pa.gov)

The UC website provides instructions, a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page, and a UC System Resources page with videos and user guides on how to complete both applications and ongoing steps. If you need direct assistance, email [UCHelp@pa.gov](mailto:UCHelp@pa.gov) with "Need help filing" in the subject line and request a callback.

Applicants who can't use the internet, need language assistance, or accessibility support...

- can apply by phone at 1-888-313-7284. For language interpreters call 888-313-7284. For ASL Videophone Service call 717-704-8474. For Text Telephone Service (TTY) call 888-334-4046 from a TTY device.
- or they can schedule an in-person appointment through the UC Connect program by calling their local PA CareerLink office.

See the next page for suggestions to prevent common problems that applicants experience.

## Suggestions to prevent common problems in the UC process.

- When you first register, **write down your ID.me, UC dashboard, and CareerLink user names and passwords and store them in a safe place that you won't forget.** Setting up new user names and passwords can be very difficult and time-consuming.
- On your UC website dashboard, go to the Widgets section and click on the Personal Profile link to **make sure all your contact information is correct.** Then scroll down to the Preferred Notification Method. If you use email, select "Internal Message with Email Notification" as seen on the right. **Check your email regularly for UC messages!** If you don't use email or don't have internet access, select the postal delivery option. Be aware mail sometimes arrives late.

### Preferred Notification Method

Please select a method in which you prefer to receive your notifications:

Internal Message with Email Notification ▼

- **Complete your Work Registration at the CareerLink website:** You should see a message like the one shown below when you have finished. **Save a copy of the confirmation!**

### ✔ Unemployment Compensation (UC) Registration Requirement - Effective 09/21/2021

If you are an Unemployment Compensation claimant, you have satisfied the unemployment compensation requirement to register for employment-search services offered by the PA CareerLink® system.

- **Be sure to file a weekly claim certifying your eligibility** for each week separately as instructed on the UC website, even if you receive a disqualifying separation determination, an appeal hearing is scheduled, and/or benefits payments are paused.
- **Also complete your weekly work search, even if you expect to be recalled or have a job offer.**
- **You CAN appeal UC determinations,** often triggered by unfounded employer challenges to your eligibility that you can contest by presenting evidence in an appeal hearing.

## Is the UC application process complicated? YES!

Are you experiencing any of the following concerns?

- Difficulty understanding the online application form, identity verification, determinations, work registration, weekly filing certification, overpayment letters, the appeal process, etc.
- Lack of reliable internet access, trouble using computers, or the internet.
- Language or disability barriers and the need for accessibility tech support, verbal language interpretation, and/or translation of documents.

A Mon Valley Unemployed Committee (MVUC) Benefit Advocate may be able to help provide information, guidance, or referrals to other helpful resources.

To speak with an MVUC Benefit Advocate call 412-462-9962  
or email [info@monvalleyunemployed.org](mailto:info@monvalleyunemployed.org).

## Position

\* Type of employment:

\* Full or part-time:

\* Number of hours a week you normally work? (excluding overtime):

Whole Hours:

Partial Hours:

\* Gross Salary:

\* Salary is based upon:

\* Salary is commission-based:

Yes  No

\* Date you began work:

  (MM/DD/YYYY)Today

\* Are you currently employed with this employer?

Yes  No

**\*\*You have to answer NO to this question\*\***

\* Gross earnings this week:

\* Number of hours worked this week:

**Employer's Reason for Separation:**

Not Yet Submitted

Partial Employment is defined as a reduction in your normal and customary hours with your regular full-time employer due to a lack of work.

**\* Reason for Separation:**

Labor Dispute / Strike / Lockout

**\* Additional information on reason for separation:**

Lockout

(120 characters max)

113 characters remaining.

**\* Last day worked:**

06/22/2023  (MM/DD/YYYY) [Today](#)

You indicated the date as June 22, 2023

**Duration of Job:**

**\* Did this employer tell you that you would be recalled to your job?**

Yes  No

**\* Was this employment with a public or private**

Yes  No

- \* Did this employer tell you that you would be recalled to your job?  Yes  No
- \* Was this employment with a public or private school, college or university (e.g. teacher, athletic coach, maintenance staff); or with a governmental agency that provides services (e.g. educational support staff, or crossing guard) to a school, college or university? (If you worked as a bus driver for a transportation company and not directly for a school, answer NO.)  Yes  No
- \* Did you own stock and serve as an officer for the company where you were last employed?  Yes  No
- \* Was your job eliminated because the work was transferred out of the country?  Yes  No
- \* Are you a spouse or parent of this employer?  Yes  No

## Benefit Payment Information

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Please indicate if you will receive benefit payments from any of the following categories from this employer.

- \* Did you receive any Severance  Yes  No

### Unemployment Insurance Claim Filing Process



## Labor Dispute - Claimant

The department is requesting information, regarding a labor dispute, to determine eligibility for Unemployment Compensation (UC) benefits.

\* Are you unemployed because of a labor dispute?  Yes  No

\* Date the labor dispute began:

\* Time the labor dispute began:

\* At the time the labor dispute began, was a labor-management contract in effect?  Yes  No

\* When does/did the labor-management contract expire?

Please provide the following information regarding the employer where the labor dispute took place:



Please provide the following information regarding the employer where the labor dispute took place:

\* Employer's Name:

Wabtec

\* Worksite Location:

Erie

\* Worksite Telephone Number:

814-875-5118


\* Job Title:

Your job title

\* Work Department:

Enter your department

\* Last Day of Work:

06/22/2023 

\* Are you a member of a union or represented by a union?

Yes  No

\* Union Name and Local Number:

UE Local 506 or  
UE Local 618

\* Union Address:

3923 Main Street Lawrence Park, Erie PA 16511



**Prior to the beginning of the labor dispute:**

\* Did the **UNION** offer to continue to work under the **exact** same terms and conditions of employment?  Yes  No

\* Did the **EMPLOYER** make continuing work available under the **exact** same terms and conditions of employment?  Yes  No

**After the labor dispute began:**

\* Did the **UNION** offer to continue to work under the **exact** same terms and conditions of employment?  Yes  No

\* Did the **EMPLOYER** make continuing work available under the **exact** same terms and conditions of employment?  Yes  No



\* **Did you attempt to return to work after the labor dispute began?**

Yes  No

\* **Please explain:**

I have been locked out.

\* **Were picket lines established?**

Yes  No

\* **By what group(s) of workers?**

All workers

\* **When were they established?**

06/22/2023 

\* **Where were they located?**

All gates

\* **Have other employees not**

Yes  No



\* **Have other employees not involved in the work stoppage been able to cross the picket lines?**  Yes  No

\* **Were you instructed to return to work?**  Yes  No

\* **Has the employer hired any replacements for the workers involved in this labor dispute?**  Yes  No

**Please provide any additional information that you feel may affect the eligibility for unemployment compensation including any supporting documentation that may support your answers.**

Union Officers have additional information related to these questions

**1. I acknowledge that false statements in this document are punishable pursuant to 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.**

**2. All information provided is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.**

**3. I acknowledge that a person who makes a false statement or representation knowing it to be false, or knowingly fails to disclose a material fact to obtain or increase any UC benefits commits a criminal offense under Section 801(a) of the UC Law, 43 P.S. § 871(a), and may be subject to a fine, imprisonment and restitution.**