



MASSACHUSETTS BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL

Francis X. Callahan, Jr., President
Jeff Sullivan, Vice President
Louis A. Mandarini, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer

April 7, 2020

Dear Brother/Sister,

The US Department of Labor (USDOL) has released its regulations regarding the 13-week extension of UI benefits and the additional \$600 in weekly benefit payments passed under the federal CARES Act. (link below)
https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/UIPL/UIPL_15-20_Attachment_1.pdf

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts signed an agreement with USDOL and the Act is retroactive to March 29, 2020.

The Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is moving to add an additional \$600 to the weekly benefits received by traditional unemployment claimants, **retroactive to March 29, 2020**. DUA is also implementing the 13-week extension of benefits.

We have provided additional information below.

We will keep you updated as we have more information on the implementation.

Fraternally yours,

Frank Callahan
President
Massachusetts Building Trades Council
35 Highland Avenue
Malden, MA 02148

Additional information: Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

Beginning and Ending Dates of the FPUC Program in a State:

- Under Section 2104(e) of the CARES Act, Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (**FPUC**) is payable in a state for **weeks of unemployment beginning after the date on which the state enters into an agreement with the Department** and ending with weeks of unemployment ending on or before July 31, 2020. **The beginning date for Massachusetts is March 29, 2020.**
- States that are unable to immediately pay benefits the week following the execution of the agreement with the USDOL to operate the program must provide retroactive payments to individuals eligible for (FPUC) for the weeks they would have been entitled.

Notification to Claimants:

- The state must notify a potentially eligible individual of his or her entitlement to FPUC. Such notification should include both the beginning and ending dates for the FPUC program.

Allowable Methods of Payment:

- States must issue payments of FPUC as soon as administratively feasible. States have some flexibility in how they issue FPUC payments; states may pay the additional \$600 either:
 - a) as an amount which is paid at the same time and in the same manner as any regular UC otherwise payable for the week involved; or
 - b) at the option of the state, by payments which are made separately from, but on the same weekly basis as, any regular UC otherwise payable
 - c) This means you may receive the additional \$600 in either your regular benefit check or as a separate check.

If the individual is eligible to receive at least one dollar (\$1) of underlying benefits for the claimed week, the claimant will receive the full \$600 FPUC

Taxable Income:

- The \$600 FPUC is taxable. Therefore, states must include FPUC when preparing 1099Gs, and must, consistent with Section 3304(a)(18), FUTA (26 U.S.C. §3304(a)(18)), withhold taxes from the weekly benefit amount and from the \$600 FPUC, when an individual elects to have taxes withheld