

Unemployment Assistance COVID Extension Provisions

- The agreement will **temporarily extend a number of unemployment programs created by CARES Act** that expire Dec. 31, 2020. CBO estimates the total cost to be \$120 billion.
- It **prevents unemployed individuals who stand to lose benefits at the end of the year from hitting that benefit cliff**, and it contains **benefit phase outs to prevent another benefit cliff** from occurring down the road.
- It **adds program integrity, anti-fraud, measures** to unemployment assistance (especially in the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, **and return-to-work type of requirements** for states to have a method for employers to report when someone turns down suitable work.
 - **Provides** unemployed individuals an **additional \$300 per week for 10 weeks** from December 26, 2020-March 14, 2021 (under the program called **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)**).
 - **Extends and phases-out Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)** which is a temporary federal program covering self-employed and gig workers, to March 14 (after which no new applicants) through April 5, 2021.
 - This averts another “cliff” by allowing people who are getting benefits as of March 14 to stay on 3 additional weeks before their benefits are cutoff.
 - It also **increases the number of weeks available in PUA from 39 to 50** to cover people who have almost used up all their benefits – however all benefits end April 5, 2021.
 - **Extends and phases-out Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)**, which provides additional weeks of assistance when state unemployment runs out, to March 14 (after which no new applications) through April 5, 2021.
 - This averts another “cliff” by allowing people who are getting benefits as of March 14 to stay on 3 additional weeks before their benefits are cut off.
 - It also **increases the number of weeks available in PEUC from 13 to 24** to cover people who have almost used up all their benefits – however all benefits end April 5, 2021.

- **Extends all other Unemployment Insurance (UI) provisions to March 14**, including interest-free loans to states to keep their unemployment-insurance trust funds in shape, flexible staffing for states, and UI relief for non-profit organizations.
- **Adds program integrity provisions** to require documentation of earnings and employment (versus just self-certification), and requires states to have processes for verifying applicants identity, to combat fraud and abuse in the unemployment programs.
- **Includes your Return to Work reporting requirements** for states to have a place for employers to report when someone turns down a job and to notify claimants of the requirement to accept suitable work, unless there is good cause for refusal.