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# Department of Unemployment Assistance Disburses Final Lost Wages Assistance Benefits to Unemployment Claimants

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

9/11/2020

Department of Unemployment Assistance

Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

MEDIA CONTACT

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**BOSTON, MA** – The Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has disbursed the 6th and final Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) \$300 supplemental benefit to unemployment claimants in the Commonwealth. The application for these federal supplemental unemployment benefits was submitted by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), in coordination with the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA).

The limited additional weekly unemployment benefit to claimants under the federal LWA program went to all eligible claimants for the weeks ending 8/1/20 through 9/5/20. Approximately 461,000 standard unemployment insurance (UI) beneficiaries and 234,000 Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) beneficiaries were determined eligible for LWA during that time frame. The total amount disbursed to eligible claimants was over \$1.3 billion. This program was administered and funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA has informed DUA that no additional LWA payments will be available beyond the 6 weeks already allotted.

All LWA-eligible unemployment claimants in both the UI and PUA programs should receive the supplemental funding by September 15th. If a claimant has questions about eligibility or their payment status they can call the Department of Unemployment Assistance call center at 877-626-6800. The call center is open from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, and 8 a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturdays. Multilingual call agents are available. More information about unemployment assistance in Massachusetts can be found at [mass.gov/unemployment](https://mass.gov/unemployment) (/unemployment).

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## Department of Unemployment Assistance

[\(/orgs/departments-of-unemployment-assistance\)](/orgs/departments-of-unemployment-assistance)

DUA oversees the unemployment insurance (UI) program, which provides temporary income assistance to eligible workers in Massachusetts. DUA also determines and collects employer contributions to the UI program. To report fraud or get help with your claim, call Unemployment Customer Assistance at (877) 626-6800.

**More** [\(/orgs/departments-of-unemployment-assistance\)](/orgs/departments-of-unemployment-assistance)



## Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

[\(/orgs/executive-office-of-labor-and-workforce-development\)](/orgs/executive-office-of-labor-and-workforce-development)

EOLWD manages the Commonwealth's workforce development and labor departments to ensure that workers, employers, and the unemployed have the tools and training needed to succeed in the Massachusetts economy.

**More** ([/orgs/executive-office-of-labor-and-workforce-development](#))

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## Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

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Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency ensures the state is prepared to withstand, respond to and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters.

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