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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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### COVID-19 — STATE EXTENDED BENEFITS PROGRAM — OCTOBER 2020

**Background.** Due to Iowa's economic recovery, the [U.S. Department of Labor \(DOL\)](#) has notified Iowa that it has "triggered off" of the unemployment [Extended Benefits \(EB\)](#) program, making Iowans no longer eligible for the program. The DOL has calculated that Iowa's insured unemployment rate has averaged below 5.0% for the last 13 weeks. The last payable week of the EB program is the week ending October 31, 2020. Under the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, all states provide 13 additional weeks of federally funded [Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Assistance \(PEUC\)](#) benefits to people who exhaust their regular state benefits, followed by additional weeks of federally funded EB in states with high unemployment (up to 13 or 20 weeks depending on state laws).

According to the DOL, EB cannot be paid to any claimant for weeks of unemployment after October 31, 2020, even if the claimant has not yet received 13 weeks of EB. Those who lose EB may be eligible for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Program. PUA provides temporary income to eligible individuals who became unemployed as a result of the novel COVID-19 pandemic and are self-employed, do not have sufficient work history to be eligible for a claim, or have exhausted other forms of unemployment insurance benefits. Claimants may apply for PUA [here](#).

**Additional Information.** For additional information regarding entitlement to unemployment insurance benefits, visit [www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov](http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov).

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