



## Frequently Asked Questions: Federal Requirements to Reapply for Unemployment Benefits

### Why do I need to reapply for benefits?

Federal and state law require that unemployment claims be reviewed for eligibility for several reasons including but not limited to:

- Your benefit year has expired (the benefit year is the 52-week period starting on the effective date of the regular UI claim; even PUA and PEUC claimants must reapply when their benefit year ends),
- You did not apply for benefits last week, or
- Your monetary eligibility needs to be redetermined.

Even if your account is active and you have a balance, if you have an “Apply for Benefits” button in your BEACON portal, then you need to reapply for benefits to be able to file your weekly certification.

This requirement does not mean that you are no longer eligible for UI benefits or that there is an issue with the BEACON system.

### How do I determine if my benefit year has expired?

To determine if your benefit year has expired, click on “Benefit Payment” on the left hand menu of your BEACON portal. Click on “Payment History” and you will see “Potential Benefits by Program”, as shown in the image below. The date listed in the “Benefit Year End Date” column for your Regular UI claim is the applicable one. This is true even if you are receiving PUA or PEUC and those programs have a different Benefit Year End Date.

Potential Benefits By Program				
Claim Number	Program Name	Benefit Year Begin Date	Benefit Year End Date	Weekly Benefit Amount
	REGULAR UI	04/12/2020	04/10/2021	
	PUA	04/12/2020	09/04/2021	

*Note: A red arrow points to the Benefit Year End Date for the REGULAR UI claim (04/10/2021).*

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**Search Criteria**

Week Ending Date From:

Week Ending Date To:

Date Payment Issued From:

Date Payment Issued To:

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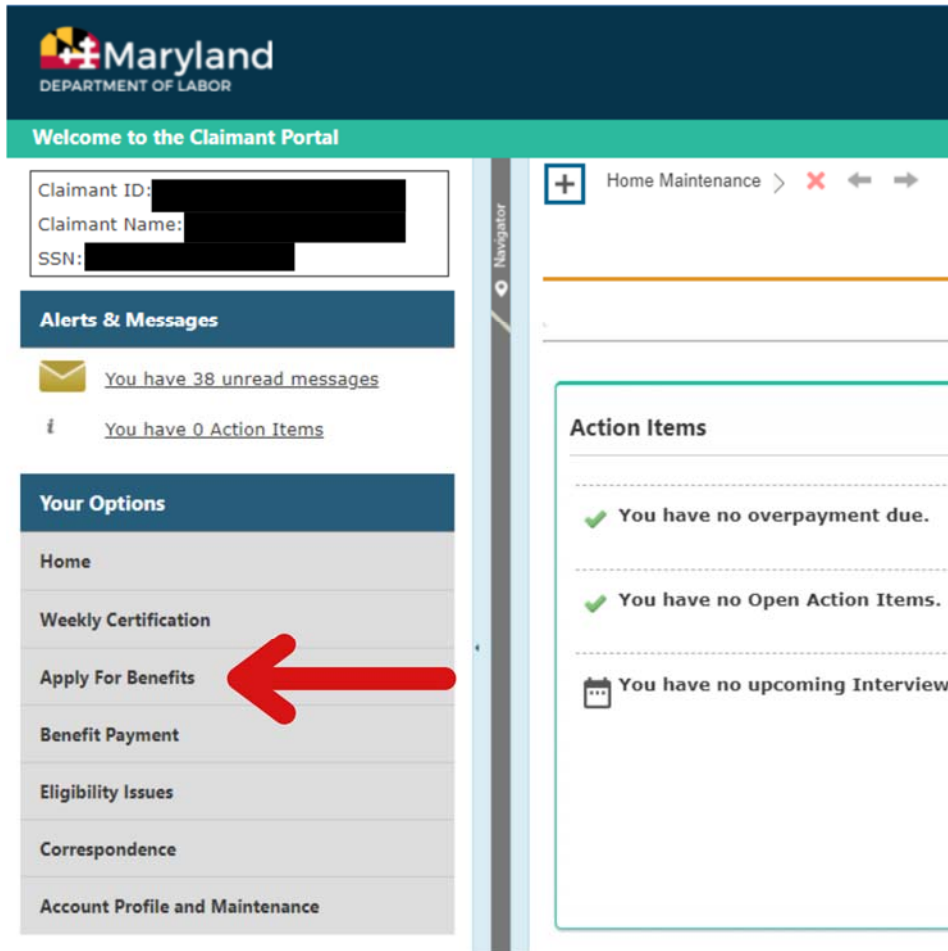
**Payment History**

First Prev **1** 2 3 ... 6 7 Next Last Results 1 - 10 of 66

Week Ending	Date Certification Received	Program Name	Date Payment Issued	Benefit Amount	Payment Amount	Overpayment	Process Status	Adjusted	Process/Adjusted Date	History
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## How do I reapply?

If you wish to reapply for benefits, you should access your BEACON portal from an Internet browser, click on the “Apply for Benefits” link on your home page, and follow the steps. Note: You cannot complete this process from the MD Unemployment for Claimants Mobile App.



The screenshot displays the Maryland Department of Labor Claimant Portal. The header includes the Maryland logo and 'DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'. A green banner reads 'Welcome to the Claimant Portal'. Below this, there are fields for Claimant ID, Claimant Name, and SSN, all of which are redacted. A sidebar on the left contains a 'Navigator' and a list of options: Home, Weekly Certification, Apply For Benefits (highlighted with a red arrow), Benefit Payment, Eligibility Issues, Correspondence, and Account Profile and Maintenance. The main content area shows a 'Home Maintenance' breadcrumb, a message notification for 38 unread messages and 0 action items, and an 'Action Items' section with three items: 'You have no overpayment due.', 'You have no Open Action Items.', and 'You have no upcoming Interview/'.

## When should I reapply for benefits if I have the button in my portal?

The sooner you apply for a new benefit year by clicking on “Apply for Benefits” in your BEACON portal and following the steps, the sooner you will be able to file your weekly claim certification and receive benefit payments, if eligible. Please know that claimants who were receiving PUA or PEUC benefits will likely continue to receive PUA or PEUC after they reapply for a new benefit year.

## I applied for a new benefit year, and now my account balance is \$0. What happened to my previous balance?

If you apply for a new benefit year, your PEUC or PUA balance will not be affected. If you are a regular UI claimant, and you are monetarily ineligible for benefits in the new benefit year, you

will have a \$0 balance. In that case, however, you will be reverted back to PEUC or PUA, as appropriate.

### **How and when will I know if I was approved?**

The redetermination of a claimant's eligibility for a federal program (PUA and PEUC) happens quickly—often in real time—and the claimant will receive updated information in their BEACON portal. Claimants do not need to contact the Division. Regular UI claimants will receive a quick determination, especially if there are no additional issues detected on their claim.

### **How has the state helped claimants address this issue?**

Beginning on the first day of this filing week, the Division has sent multiple communications to affected claimants, and the information is posted on the landing page of the BEACON portal and the Labor website.

### **How quickly are claims being processed after claimants reapply for benefits?**

Ninety percent (90%) of all claimants that have reapplied have been determined eligible for the same program almost instantaneously, filed their weekly certification, and received payment.

### **What happens if I reapply and have wages detected?**

If you reapply and have wages detected, you may be eligible for regular UI benefits, and the Division may have to contact your previous employer.

### **I am having trouble with the website. Are there any technical issues with BEACON? Why is there a queue?**

No, there are not any technical issues with the BEACON website. The queue may be activated when the site is experiencing high volume during peak hours. Claimants can enter their email and be notified when they can login to their BEACON portal. The Division's vendor is also adding more servers to accommodate the high volume of traffic.

### **Does reapplying for benefits have anything to do with the expiration of enhanced pandemic unemployment benefits on July 3?**

**No. There is no connection to the expiration of the pandemic unemployment benefits whatsoever.** If claimants are waiting to receive an eligibility determination for any federal programs, the Division will ensure that they receive all payments owed to them for all weeks prior to July 3 that they are determined eligible for.