
North Carolina COVID 19 Unemployment Update

North Carolina enacted HB 1105, Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0 on September 4th, 2020. North Carolina's newest Unemployment Surplus was created by the House Bill 1105. This new benefit is referred to as "Increased Benefit Amount" or "IBA".

On October 17th, 2020, NC Commerce began to pay the credit. People who are eligible for the COVID-19 Increased Benefit Amount will receive a \$50 increase in their weekly unemployment benefit amount starting with the benefit week that began on Sept. 6 through no later than the benefit week ending Dec. 26, 2020.

People do not need to file a separate claim for IBA. Those who are eligible will automatically receive a \$50 retroactive increase in their weekly unemployment benefit amount starting with the benefit week that began on Sept. 6 through no later than Dec. 26, 2020.

Eligibility for the credit applies to:

- **People receiving state unemployment insurance benefits:** Under the new state law, all claimants receiving state unemployment insurance benefits during the weeks of the IBA program will be eligible for the \$50 Increased Benefit Amount. This is the case whether the person filed their initial claim for benefits before or after Sept. 6, 2020.
- **People receiving Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, Extended Benefits or Trade Readjustment Allowance:** According to the U.S. Department of Labor, if a claimant's weekly benefit amount for state unemployment insurance was not increased before moving into one of these federal programs, the claimant will not be eligible for the \$50 Increased Benefit Amount
- **People receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance:** According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the weekly benefit amount for this federal program is determined by the benefit calculation that was in effect at the time the claim was initially filed. Claims filed before Sept. 6 will not be eligible for the \$50 Increased Benefit Amount. Claims filed on or after Sept. 6 will be eligible for the \$50 Increased Benefit Amount or the weekly benefit amount will be raised to the federally-set minimum for PUA, whichever is higher

Employers will not be liable for these additional funds, and the employer's unemployment tax rate will not be affected by this new program.

CCC is in contact with both national and state representatives regarding this issue and will keep you updated as more information becomes available.