



## You may be at risk of having to pay back unemployment

- If you got unemployment insurance anytime in 2021 you may be at risk for an overpayment of benefits.
- If you are found to have been overpaid benefits you may be required to repay unemployment benefits you got since January 1, 2021.
- Keep reading to find out if you need to take action now!

If you received PUA benefits in 2021 you need to submit proof that you were employed prior to COVID to the Maine Department of Labor.

You have to submit this proof even if you already submitted the same proof for another reason and even if you have returned to work.

For many claimants, the deadline to submit this proof was August 4, 2021. At least 7,400 Mainers did not submit this proof by the deadline and will have to repay the unemployment benefits unless they act now.

### How can I find out if I am at risk for an overpayment?

Not everyone who received unemployment benefits is required to provide this proof. But even if you think that you never got PUA benefits, it is best to check your mail, your email, and your ReEmployMe account for a letter from the Department of Labor that says you have an overpayment or need to submit proof that you were employed prior to COVID

If you have changed addresses or you are locked out of your account, call MDOL at 1-800-593-7660. It is usually quicker to reach an agent on Thursdays and Fridays.

### What should I do if I got a letter from MDOL saying that I have an overpayment because I did not submit verification of employment?

**Step 1:** Appeal the decision right away. You can do this in any of the following ways:

- Online by using the [ReEmployME system](#)
- By email at Admin.Hearings@Maine.gov
- By calling 1-207-621-5001
- By fax at 207-287-5949

**Step 2:** Do not wait for the appeal hearing to submit your proof of employment. You can find more information about what documents to provide and how to submit them [at the Maine Department of Labor website](#). If the documents you submit are accepted you may not need to attend an appeal hearing, but it is important to protect your rights by filing an appeal as soon as possible.

**Step 3:** If you an appeal hearing is set in your case contact an attorney for representation ASAP. If you are low-income you may be able to get free legal representation from Pine Tree Legal Assistance. Information on how to reach them is available at <https://www.ptla.org/contact-us>.