

PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT OVERPAYMENTS

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, many New Mexicans were incorrectly overpaid unemployment insurance benefits through no fault of their own. **Many of these overpayments were caused by the NM Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS) and are eligible for forgiveness.**

Take action to qualify for forgiveness and/or a refund!

To receive forgiveness and/or a refund if you already paid back the overpayment, you must ask for a waiver of the overpayment.

A waiver is available for overpayments of these programs:

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)
Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC)



Anyone that *did not* cause their overpayment and that would suffer financial hardship if they had to pay it back qualifies for a waiver.

Apply for a waiver regardless of when the overpayment occurred, and whether you already paid back your overpayment or not. If granted, you should receive a refund of any amounts you paid back.

Request a waiver by completing a form sent to you by the DWS through your online portal or by calling DWS and applying for a waiver over the phone. Call 1-877-664-6984.

APPLYING FOR A PANDEMIC OVERPAYMENT WAIVER

You must answer these two questions:

What is the reason for the request for waiver of the overpayment? Explain as best you can.

Many overpayments were caused by mistakes made by DWS, including using the wrong tax information or not properly evaluating documents. If a mistake like this caused your overpayment, clearly explain the mistake and why it caused your overpayment. If you are unsure why you were overpaid, but you followed the instructions you were told, you can explain that you followed the application instructions and tried to give accurate information. *If you did everything that was asked of you, you did not cause the overpayment.*

Will paying this overpayment to the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions cause a financial hardship? If yes, please explain.

For example: (1) you have no or little savings from which to pay back this money; (2) paying back any money would make it difficult to meet your basic living costs or other expenses; (3) you have medical expenses; (4) you are behind on bills and cannot afford to lose any money; or (5) you have lost your house, vehicle, or anything valuable due to this pandemic. *Include ALL reasons that repaying the overpayment has harmed or will harm you financially.*