

# AIDS Law Project *of* Pennsylvania

*a nonprofit, public-interest law firm*

## Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation

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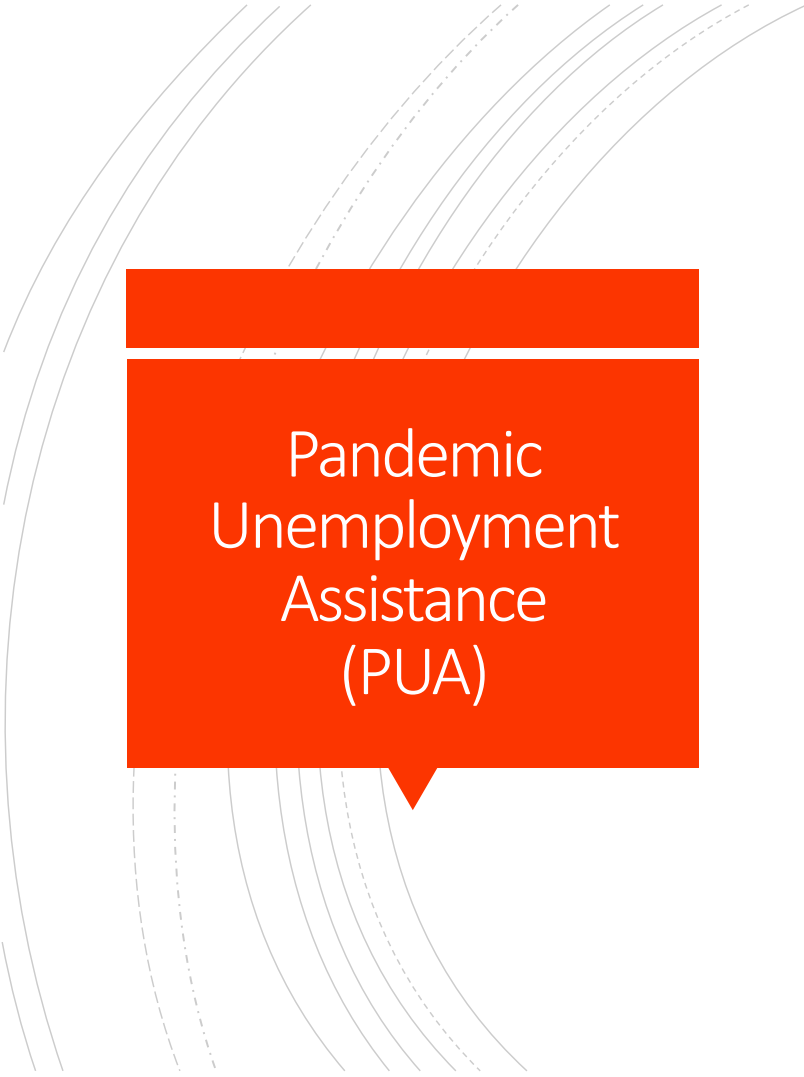
## Different Types of Unemployment Compensation Programs in Pennsylvania

- **Unemployment Compensation (UC)**
  - Traditional UC – past earnings, no fault, able to work and actively seeking employment
- **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)**
  - Expanded UC for gig workers and individuals that usually would not qualify for traditional UC
- **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)**
  - Additional \$600 per week on top of any Pennsylvania UC benefit through July 25, 2020
- **Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)**
  - Up to 13 weeks of additional UC for individuals who have exhausted their benefits.
- **Extended Benefits Program (EB)**
  - Additional weekly UC for individuals that exhausted their PEUC benefits
- **Lost Wages Assistance (LWA)**
  - Additional funding through FEMA of \$300 per week for individuals on any form of unemployment benefit

# Unemployment Compensation

Eligibility for UC is assessed BEFORE considering extended benefits provided by the Cares Act.

- UC is available for individuals with sufficient work history and:
  - Reduced Work Hours
  - Laid off due to insufficient work
  - Employer closed due to mandates in response to the pandemic and **not getting paid or working from home.**
- Important UC waivers due to COVID-19:
  - No required to submit proof of job search.
  - Not required to register with Career Link, Pennsylvania's job search program engine.
  - No waiting week prior to the start of benefits.



## Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

PUA expanded traditional UC benefits.

- The benefit is for individuals that do **not qualify** for traditional UC or have exhausted the benefit.
- Retroactive payments are available from Jan. 27, 2020 or the first week the individual was unable to work due to COVID-19, whichever is later.
- Provides up to 39 weeks of benefits, but ends on December 31, 2020.

Individuals not eligible to receive PUA

## PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE GROUPS WHO SHOULD NOT FILE FOR PUA

The following are some of the groups who should NOT file for PUA

**RETIRED**  
with no job and  
no job offer



**INDIVIDUALS**  
who were not  
working at all or did not  
have a job offer



**INMATES**



**COLLEGE  
STUDENTS**  
with no job and  
no job offer



**INDIVIDUALS** living in a halfway  
house on lock-down



**INDIVIDUALS**  
being paid to file other people's  
PUA application.



**INDIVIDUALS**  
on Social Security Disability  
with no work attachment.



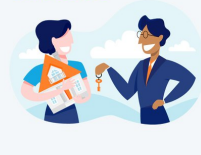
**CLAIMANTS**  
who work as an employee  
and should file UC



**CHILDREN**  
who were not working  
in actual employment



**LANDLORDS**

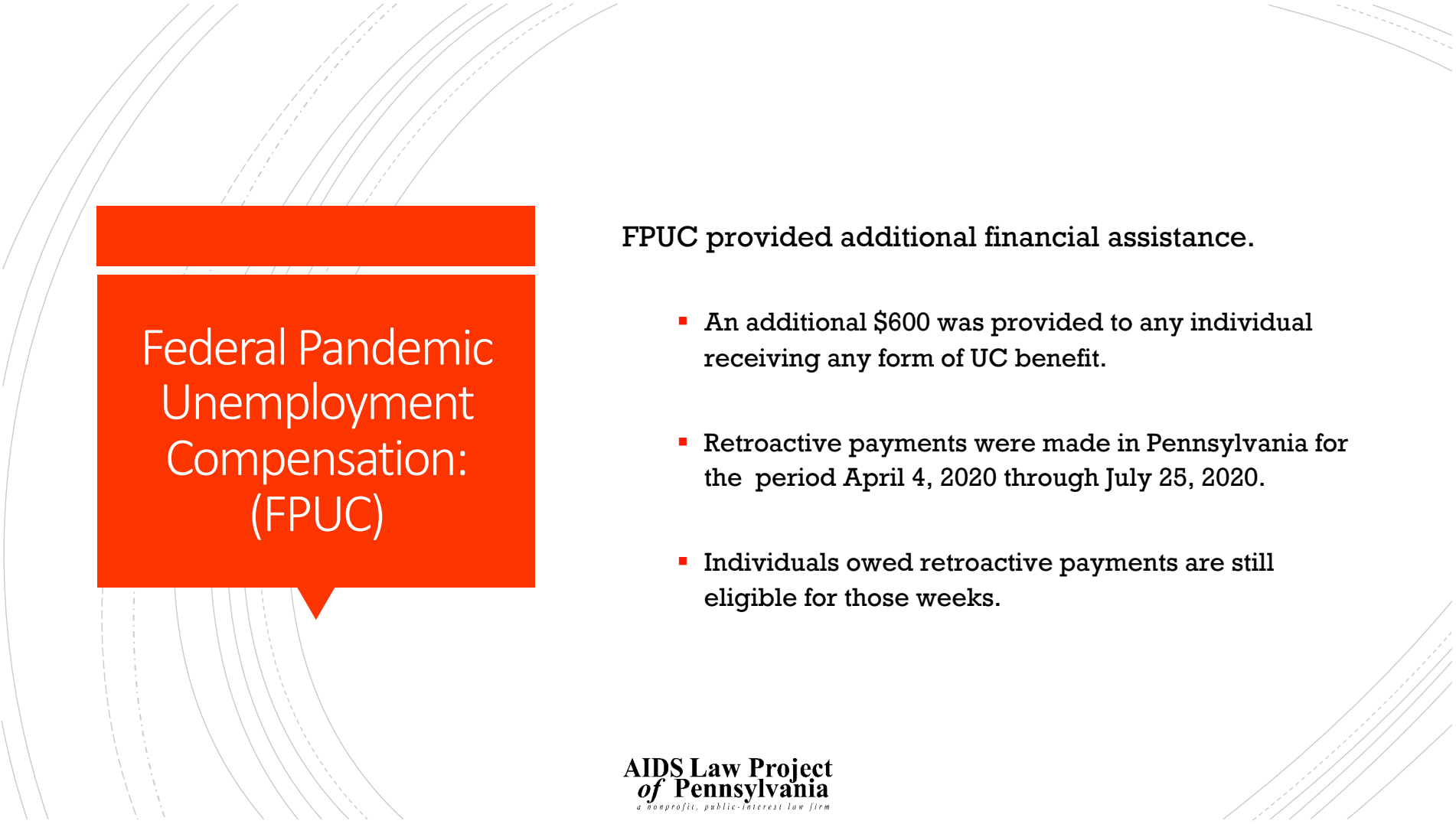


! \*Knowingly making false statements or omitting material facts to obtain PUA benefits to which you are not entitled will result in a disqualification and repayment of all overpaid PUA and corresponding FPUC benefits. You may also be subject to criminal prosecution.

 **pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

UPDATES & INFORMATION  
[WWW.UC.PA.GOV](http://WWW.UC.PA.GOV)

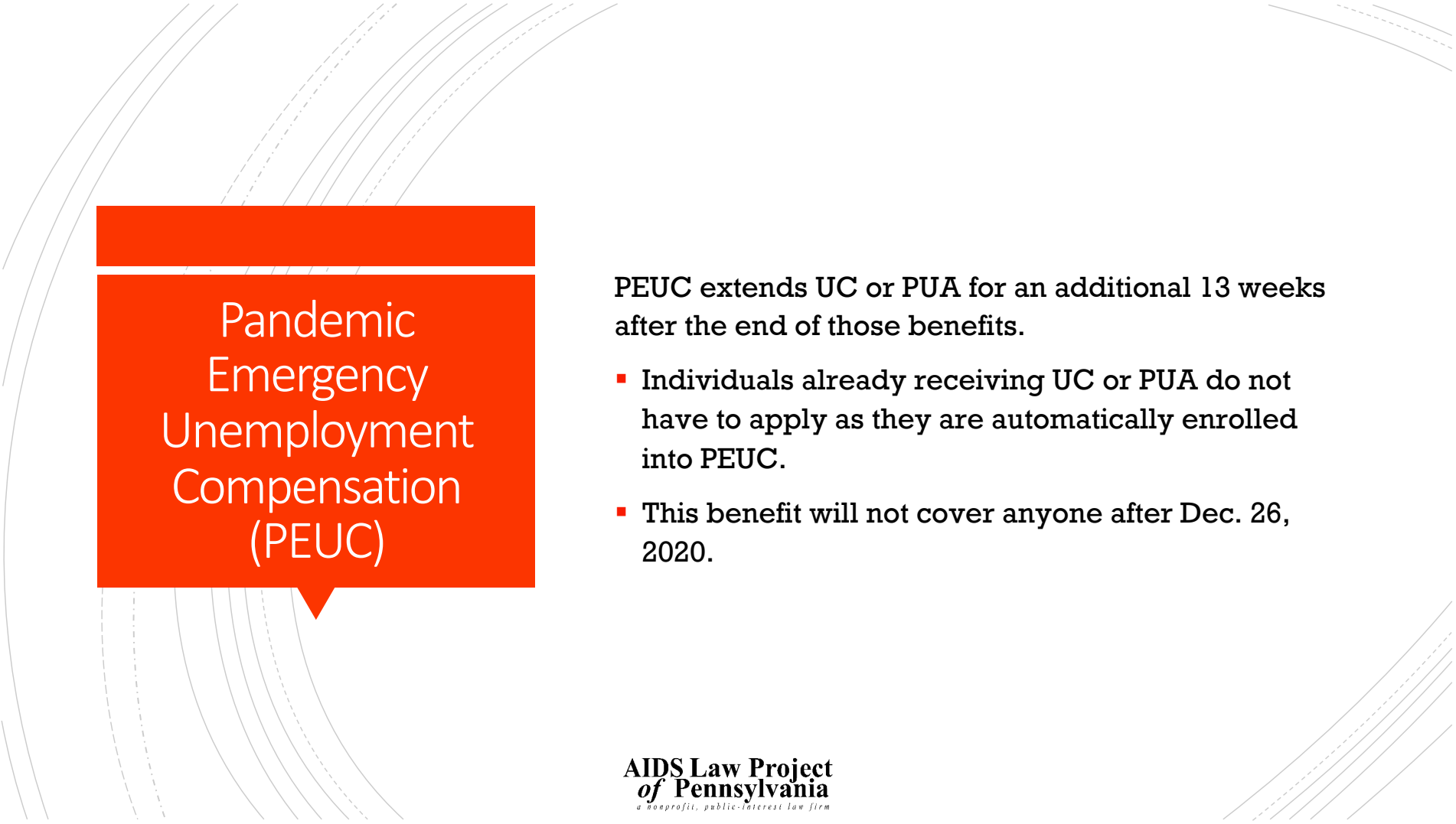
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## Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation: (FPUC)

**FPUC provided additional financial assistance.**

- **An additional \$600 was provided to any individual receiving any form of UC benefit.**
- **Retroactive payments were made in Pennsylvania for the period April 4, 2020 through July 25, 2020.**
- **Individuals owed retroactive payments are still eligible for those weeks.**



## Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)

PEUC extends UC or PUA for an additional 13 weeks after the end of those benefits.

- Individuals already receiving UC or PUA do not have to apply as they are automatically enrolled into PEUC.
- This benefit will not cover anyone after Dec. 26, 2020.

## Extended Benefits Program (EB)

The Extended Benefits Program provides funds after individuals exhaust their PEUC.

- Individuals receive EB once their PEUC benefit amount reaches \$0.
- There is no application for EB. Individuals are automatically enrolled.
- Individuals will receive EB for half the number of weeks they received traditional UC or PUA.
  - Example: Individuals approved for 18 weeks of UC or PUA benefits will qualify for 9 weeks of EB.



## Lost Wages Assistance Program (LWA)

The LWA program provides an additional \$300 to individuals on UC, PUA or extended UC benefits through funds from FEMA.

- Individuals that are on UC benefits or a UC extension program must complete the “LWA Certification” in the UC online portal. LWA Cert can also be mailed. However, there is NO phone option.
- Individuals on PUA do not have to self-certify and will receive the funds automatically.
- The funds are provided retroactively for the weeks August 1 through September 5, 2020.
- Individuals started to receive payments as of September 14, 2020.



# APPEALS

It is very important for individuals to **immediately** appeal a UC or PUA denial.

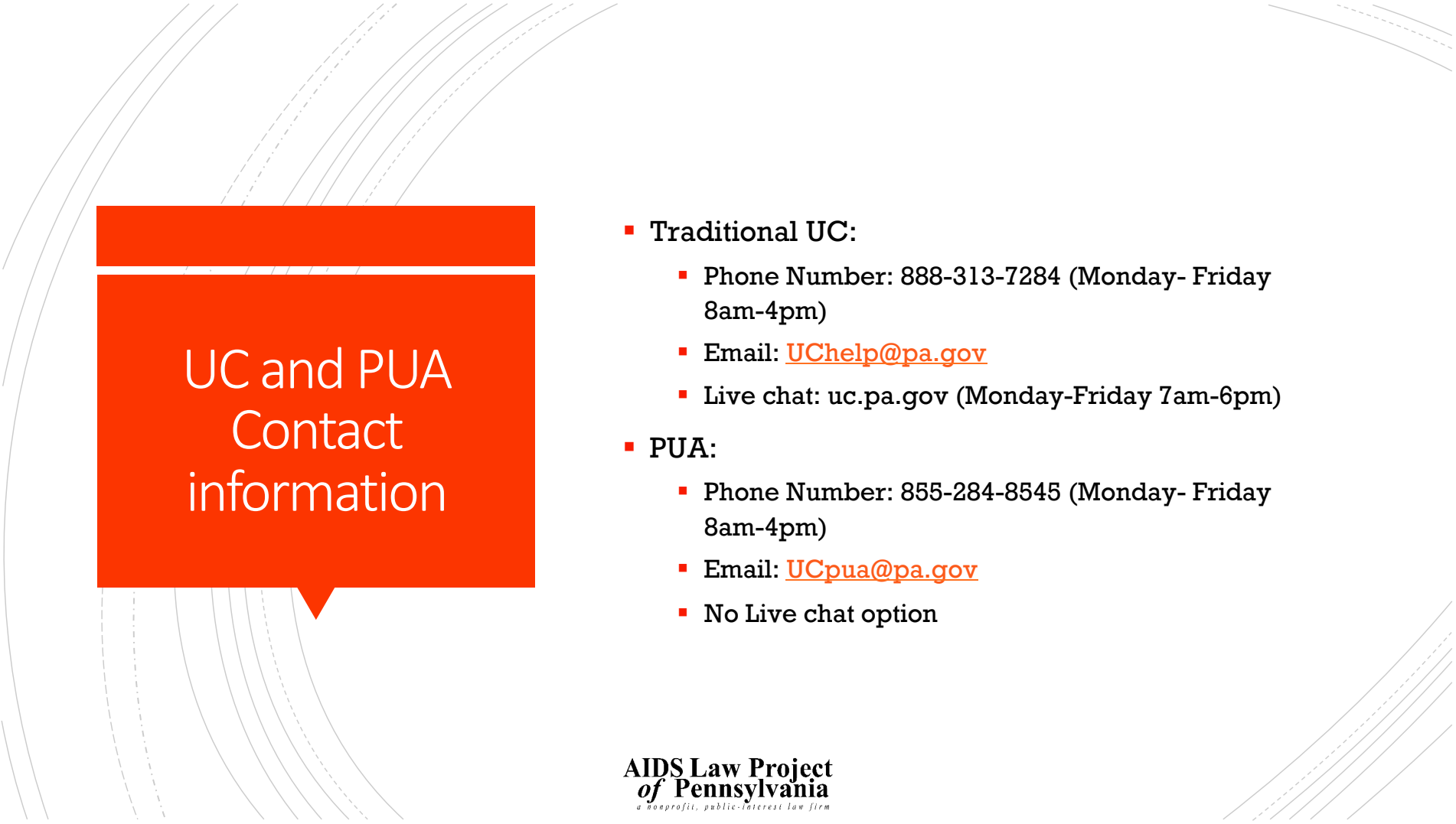
- The appeal must be submitted within 15 business days from the mailing date.
- Individuals will be mailed an appeals form included with the determination letter with the reason of the denial.
- Appeals can be mailed, faxed, or completed online.
- It is important individuals keep filing their bi-weekly claims while the appeal is in process.
- Due to delays individuals may receive their notice after the appeal date.
  - It is important to still submit an appeal and include that the notice arrived after the appeal date.
  - Keep the envelope, since it would be postmark dated. You will use this to prove the notice was late.

After filing an appeal, we encourage individuals to contact the AIDS Law Project to complete an intake.

- Website: <https://www.aidslawpa.org/on-line-intake/>
- Intake Line: 215-821-7899.

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## UC and PUA Contact information

- **Traditional UC:**
  - Phone Number: 888-313-7284 (Monday- Friday 8am-4pm)
  - Email: [UChelp@pa.gov](mailto:UChelp@pa.gov)
  - Live chat: [uc.pa.gov](http://uc.pa.gov) (Monday-Friday 7am-6pm)
- **PUA:**
  - Phone Number: 855-284-8545 (Monday- Friday 8am-4pm)
  - Email: [UCpua@pa.gov](mailto:UCpua@pa.gov)
  - No Live chat option