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DOL Issues Guidance on New CARES Act Unemployment Insurance

Provisions

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Last week, the DOL issued two guidance letters (available [here](#) and [here](#)) to state workforce agencies (such as the California EDD) on the unemployment insurance provisions of the recently enacted CARES Act. The CARES Act, which has been discussed in prior blog posts at length (see, e.g. [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)), provides emergency assistance for certain individuals, families, and businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most notably, the DOL guidance instructs state agencies on how to implement and operate two programs that were included as part of the CARES Act involving unemployment insurance benefits: the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program. Additionally, the federal government will provide 100% reimbursement to states that provide compensation to individuals beginning on their first week of unemployment (i.e., states which do not require a waiting week) and enter into an agreement with the DOL.

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