Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) Overpayments

As of December 1, 2021, TWC began identifying Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) overpayments and notifying claimants of the additional overpayment amount. The FPUC program paid an additional \$600 a week to eligible claimants for the benefit weeks ending April 4, 2020, through July 25, 2020, and an additional \$300 a week for the benefit weeks ending January 2, 2021, through June 26, 2021, to claimants who were eligible for at least \$1 during the benefit week.

If you were paid FPUC during these weeks and if you were not entitled to unemployment benefits for any of these same benefit weeks, this means TWC paid FPUC that you were not eligible to receive, creating an FPUC overpayment.

If you are required to repay an FPUC amount, TWC will send you a new FPUC Overpayment notice showing the additional FPUC overpayment amount. Since the FPUC overpayment is calculated separately, it is not included on the Statement of Overpaid Benefits Account notice.

When TWC originally determined you were overpaid, we sent a letter explaining why you were overpaid, the overpayment amount, and how to appeal that decision. The overpaid amount shown on the original letter did not include the amount you were overpaid in FPUC. If you have not repaid the original overpayment, you will have to repay TWC both the original overpayment amount and the FPUC overpayment amount.

Why wasn't FPUC included when TWC identified the original overpayment? TWC did not have programming in place to identify the overpayment for the additional FPUC before December 1, 2021, and so could not include the FPUC amount when we sent the original determination.

Can the FPUC overpayment be waived? Under specific circumstances, TWC can waive repayment of FPUC overpayments issued under the Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). You do not need to request a waiver. If the reason for your overpayment meets the criteria for a waiver TWC waived the FPUC overpayment, and you will not receive a notice. If the reason for your overpayment does not meet the criteria for a waiver, TWC will send an overpayment notice showing the overpaid amount and that the FPUC overpayment was not waived. Overpayments caused by failure to properly report your earnings or fraud do not meet the criteria for a waiver.

Can I appeal the FPUC overpayment? You can appeal any determination that is not in your favor, including the FPUC overpayment. The FPUC overpayment is the result of the determination that caused the original overpayment. When the original overpayment was created, TWC sent a notice that explained the cause, how to appeal, and the appeal deadline for the original determination. If you appeal after the deadline, you must explain why you are appealing late. See How to Appeal a Decision.

How to Repay:

- Offsetting: Once offsetting programming is complete, TWC may offset future benefit payments to recoup the FPUC overpayment.
- Repayment: Go to TWC's Overpayment webpage for instructions on how to repay an overpayment.
- Repayment Schedule: If you have an overpayment and cannot repay the entire amount all at once, a payment schedule is included on the Statement of Overpaid Benefits Account notice that TWC sends to you. You do not need to contact TWC for the payment schedule to take effect. To start payment under the schedule, submit the amount shown in the Minimum Payment Due section of the form.
- Treasury Offset Program (TOP): Individuals with an overpayment caused by incorrectly reported earnings, fraud
 and fraud penalties are subject to having the overpayment collected through TOP. If an overpayment is subject
 to TOP, TWC will send a notice showing the amount that may be collected through TOP, along with instructions
 on how to avoid referral to collection. See <u>Treasury Offset Program</u> for more information.

Unemployment Benefits Services (UBS)

Because the FPUC overpayment amount is calculated separately, it is not shown in the overpayment balance on UBS. The FPUC overpayment is included on the FPUC notice we send to you. Log on to <u>ui.texasworkforce.org</u> to view Electronic Correspondence. Questions? Go to <u>Overpayment of Unemployment Benefits – Contact Information</u>.