April 29 – Weekly Update: Unemployment Insurance Information for Partners
We understand that DEED partners are receiving questions related to Unemployment Insurance (UI) in this unprecedented time. That’s why we are providing this weekly email update with answers to common UI questions and links to helpful UI resources. However, it is important to remember that partners should not attempt to answer individual benefits eligibility questions for customers.

1) Updates

- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance has started making payments to self-employed Minnesotans.
- Some Minnesota companies are safely returning to work under Executive Order 20-40.

2) Addressing Questions on Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

- **Remember if the client has already applied for regular unemployment benefits, they don’t need anything to qualify for PUA. DEED will automatically establish a PUA benefit account for them if they are eligible.**
- If they have not applied for unemployment benefits yet there are special instructions for self-employed 1099 workers available to download here. These instructions will help self-employed workers make their accounts as easily identifiable as possible for PUA.
- Workers who have already applied without using these instructions do not need to re-apply. Accounts that have already been made are under review for PAU eligibility.
- There is no need to call for follow up. DEED will reach out proactively if more information is needed to determine potential eligibility.
- Those who have already applied will hear about their PUA benefits in their online account, by email and by mail.

3) Questions on returning to work under Executive Order 20-40

- Executive order 20-40 only applies to non-customer facing industrial and office-based businesses who cannot work from home.
- Businesses needing specific guidance on whether or not they qualify can go to the guidance page on the DEED website.
- Workers whose employer is re-opening under EO 20-40 may no longer qualify for unemployment. They must report to UI if they refuse to return to work for their employer.
• If workers feel that their employer is not abiding by CDC and MDH guidance or providing a required COVID-19 Preparedness Plan they should contact OSHA.compliance@state.mn.us.

• If a worker has an underlying health condition that places them at greater risk if they contract COVID-19 and their employer is refusing to provide reasonable accommodation, they should contact the Minnesota Department of Human Rights at 651-539-1133, 800-657-3704 or info.mdhr@state.mn.us or complete a consultation inquiry form.