

Hi my name is Poorsha Lambert and I'm a resident in Columbus ohio. I applied for unemployment on 3/25/20 and I did have an overpayment that was being paid for from my taxes. I saw on my unemployment page penalty weeks but to be very honest I didn't know what it really meant. So I got in touch with someone from the special counsel to the Attorney general office about my collection balance. I was given an agreement about my balance and I paid what I was asked to pay which was the last of money I had. I kept asking about the penalty weeks thinking that I wouldn't have to serve any weeks once I had a zero balance. I found out that I did and I haven't been able to get any money since I needed to serve 18 weeks. I have 8 more weeks left, I saw the hearing where the director of Job and Family mentioned that persons with penalty weeks can apply for PUA, so I tried but I continued to get an error message saying I have an open case with regular UI.

I sent an email to the director secretary and she did respond promptly and gave my info to someone from pua that told me it's a glitch that is stopping folks with penalty weeks to apply and it will be address in June. I was hurt because I needed the help I have a 1 year old grandson that lives in the home with me, and bills to pay and I have no vehicle at this time because our family car was repossessed due to no work and the covid epidemic. I apologize for not doing things properly in the past but my son died during that time of collecting unemployment but I paid my due and I feel like during this time it should be more help available to those serving penalty weeks. I speaking up for all those folks that's suffering right now with no money for bills and no way out. Thank you for your time.