



# Disaster Unemployment Assistance

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## Brief Summary

The Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program provides temporary benefits to workers, including the self-employed, who have become unemployed as a direct result of a federally declared disaster and are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits. The disaster must be declared by the President.

The DUA program is administered by the Employment Security Department, completely funded by the federal government, and does not impact employer tax rates. Benefits can be paid for up to 26 weeks following the presidential disaster declaration.

## Eligibility and Benefits

### *Who is eligible?*

To qualify for DUA, an individual must be out of work as a direct result of the disaster *and* cannot be eligible for regular unemployment benefits. Examples include:

- The individual's place of employment was physically damaged or destroyed; or
- The individual's worksite is inaccessible and the individual cannot get to work, either because a road or the business is closed.

### *How people apply*

When a disaster is declared, the department notifies the media that DUA is available to eligible people in the counties of the declared disaster. The announcement includes:

- How people can get more information;
- Where application packets can be obtained;
- How to apply;
- What information is needed to process an application; and
- The deadline for applying.

Federal rules require individuals to file for DUA benefits within 30 days of the announcement date.

### *Benefits available*

Weekly benefits can be paid for up to 26 weeks after the disaster declaration. DUA benefits are payable only for weeks of unemployment directly related to the disaster.

Individual weekly benefits\* range from a minimum amount (currently set at \$178\*\*) to the maximum payable for regular unemployment benefits (currently set at \$541).

\* These minimum and maximum weekly benefit amounts do not include the additional federal stimulus (\$25) and state stimulus (\$45) dollars totaling \$70 currently being included in claimants checks.

\*\*Determined by the United States Department of Labor based on 50% of the average weekly benefit amount for regular unemployment insurance benefits.

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