

# UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE AFTER A DISASTER

After a major disaster, there are unemployment assistance programs that may be available to those in need. The Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program provides assistance to people who have become unemployed because of a disaster. It provides eligible applicants with temporary unemployment benefits and reemployment services. DUA may be available in areas that have been approved for Individual Assistance after a Disaster Declaration. Applicants have **30 days** from the date that unemployment assistance is announced to apply for DUA.

Benefits under the DUA program are generally available to an individual only for the time they are unemployed while under the Disaster Assistance Period. You may be able to receive benefits for up to 26 weeks after the date of the disaster declaration.

## YOU MIGHT QUALIFY FOR DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE IF:

- You have been unemployed for a week or more after a major disaster begins,
- You cannot reach your place of work because of a major disaster,
- Your job no longer exists because of a major disaster,
- You have become the primary caretaker for your family after the death of your head of household in a major disaster, or
- You have been injured by a major disaster and cannot work.

You may still be eligible for DUA even if you don't already receive unemployment benefits.

## ADDITIONALLY, YOU MUST MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS TO BE ELIGIBLE:

- You must not be able to receive regular unemployment assistance — if you can, then you will receive that instead of DUA.
- The disaster must directly cause your unemployment.
- You must be able and available for work, unless you have been injured by the disaster and cannot work.
- You cannot refuse a valid job offer during the time you apply for or receive DUA, unless you have been injured by the disaster and cannot work.
- You must apply for DUA within the 30-day application window.

**TO APPLY FOR DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE,** please visit [www.careeronestop.org/localhelp/UnemploymentBenefits](http://www.careeronestop.org/localhelp/UnemploymentBenefits) to find your State Unemployment Insurance (SUI) agency. Your state's SUI agency will have information regarding the application process, eligibility criteria, and how to file claims.

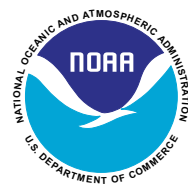


## TO APPLY, YOU MAY NEED TO PROVIDE:

- Proof of identity and citizenship (U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or qualified aliens may apply), and
- Proof of employment at the time of the disaster (tax returns, bank statements, or paycheck stubs).
  - You may also be required to submit documentation stating that you were supposed to begin work on or after the disaster date.
  - If you cannot provide proof of employment when you file for disaster unemployment assistance, you may have to provide it within a certain time period.

If your application is approved, your DUA benefits will be based on your gross wages, or if you are self-employed, your net earnings.

If your application is denied, you may be able to file an appeal with your state's SUI agency.



## RESOURCES

Visit our project website: [laseagrant.org/resources/disaster-aid](https://laseagrant.org/resources/disaster-aid)

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*All information current as of October 2024.*

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