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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) Program during Federal Sequester

What is EUC?

During periods of high unemployment in a state, Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) may become available to workers who have exhausted their regular state unemployment benefits. The EUC program provides up to 34 weeks of UI benefits. The program is funded by the federal government.

On January 1, 2013, Congress passed legislation which extends Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) through the end of 2013. The last week payable for the EUC program will be week ending December 28, 2013.

What is the Federal Sequester? And how does it affect EUC benefits?

Sequestration is a term used to describe the practice of using mandatory spending cuts in the federal budget. Beginning October 1, 2013, as a result of the Federal Sequester, the reduction affecting the Weekly Benefit Amount (WBA) of claimants who are currently receiving EUC has changed from 10.7 percent to 7.2 percent.

➤ *Example: If your WBA is \$362, your new WBA is \$335.*

What actions do claimants take to receive EUC benefits?

Those who have an EUC claim should continue to certify for benefit payments by phone or online on their regular appointment date and time through the Michigan Automated Voice Interactive Network (MARVIN). No other action needs to be taken by claimants. Affected claimants will receive a letter informing them of the reduction in their benefits due to sequestration.

We strongly encourage claimants to stay informed on the status of the EUC program by calling the EUC hotline at 1-800-638-3995 and via the agency website at michigan.gov/uia.

How long will these Federal Sequester reduction cuts be in effect?

These reductions will be in effect until new federal guidelines are issued.

How many claimants are currently receiving unemployment benefits through Michigan's Unemployment Insurance Agency?

Currently 118,329 people are receiving benefits in Michigan. This includes regular state unemployment benefits and EUC. Of that number 48,378 are collecting EUC benefits.

Are there additional requirements for claimants entering EUC?

Yes. Individuals who are entering Tier 1 of the EUC program are required to report in-person to a local Michigan Works! Office for reemployment services. Additionally, EUC claimants must continue to submit documentation of their work searches to the UIA prior to biweekly certification through MARVIN or MARVIN Online. Individuals are required to report the details and results of their work search on Form UIA 1583 *Monthly Record of Work Search*.

How can a claimant determine how many weeks of benefits he/she will receive?

Claimants can access this information online through their Claim Web Account or call MARVIN (Michigan Automated Response Voice Interactive Network) at 1-866-638-3993 and select Option 2.

What criterion is used to qualify states for the EUC program?

The federal government established unemployment rate thresholds that the states must meet in order to remain eligible for the EUC program. In Michigan, the total unemployment rate (TUR) must be at a certain percentage (based on a three month average) for the state to remain eligible for EUC. Michigan's three month average TUR must remain at 9 percent or above to be eligible to provide all four tiers of the EUC program.

How is the federal unemployment benefit program funded?

The federal government funds the EUC program. Michigan employers are not charged for any EUC benefits paid to claimants.

When is the last week payable for EUC benefits?

The last week payable for the EUC program will be week ending Dec. 28, 2013, regardless of any remaining weeks left on any EUC claim.

What should claimants do if they will soon exhaust their EUC benefits?

Unemployed workers with online web accounts with the UIA can check their "Benefit Payment History" for information about their remaining weeks of benefits. Workers who have not established online accounts can call MARVIN at 1-866-638-3993 and press option 2. Additional information about the end of EUC will be posted on the UIA website (www.michigan.gov/uia). In addition, the Agency has established a toll-free telephone number 1-866-MI-HELPS (1-866-644-3577) for people to call for pre-recorded information about the extension program and their remaining benefits. Individuals can visit <http://www.mitalent.org> for job and training information.

How can claimants find out more about EUC?

We strongly encourage claimants to stay informed on the status of the EUC program by calling the EUC hotline at 1-800-638-3995 and via the agency website at michigan.gov/uia - click the red EUC Extension button for more information.

- Submit an inquiry to the Agency's Virtual Problem Resolution (ViPR) agents who are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Visit the UIA website at www.michigan.gov/uia.
- Call the UIA Customer Service Line at 1-866-500-0017. Customer Service representatives are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Visit a UIA Problem Resolution Office (PRO) for in-person assistance. Visit the UIA website at www.michigan.gov/uia for a list of locations.