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LANSING

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Federal Government Shutdown Questions and Answers

Q1. I am currently participating in a TIA workforce development program. Will this change because of the federal government shutdown?

A1. No, this will not impact your current TIA workforce development program participation.

Q2. I am currently receiving unemployment insurance benefits. Will this change because of the federal government shutdown?

A2. No, this will not impact your current claim for unemployment insurance benefits. You must continue filing your certification every two weeks, conduct an active work search, and report any earnings you have while collecting benefits. If you meet the eligibility criteria, your payments will continue.

Q3. My federal job is considered "non-essential" and I am out of work during the shutdown. Can I file for unemployment benefits?

A3. Yes, you may file for unemployment insurance benefits during this time. For additional information, please refer to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management website at: [Important Unemployment Insurance Resources for Federal Agencies and Employees](#)

Q4. When I return to work with the federal government, will I have to pay back the unemployment insurance benefits that I received during the shutdown period?

A4. Yes, if you receive any back pay for the time you were off work during the federal shutdown, you may be required to pay back any unemployment insurance benefits that you received.

Q5. How do I file for unemployment insurance benefits?

A5. You may file for unemployment insurance benefits online at www.michigan.gov/uia. This website is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you prefer to file by phone, please call Customer Service at 866-500-0017, Monday through Wednesday, 7:00 am until 6:00 pm and Thursday and Friday, 7:00 am until 5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time. Please note that call wait times may be longer at the beginning of the week due to the increased number of customers during this time.

Q6. If I file for unemployment insurance benefits, when will it become effective and when will I receive my first check?

A6. Your unemployment insurance claim is effective the week in which you file. For example, if you file a claim on Monday, December 24, your unemployment insurance claim will have an effective date of Sunday, December 23. Michigan requires that every two weeks you report, or certify, that you are still unemployed, able, available, and seeking work in order to receive unemployment insurance benefits. The first report, or certification, for a claim effective December 23, is required week of January 6, 2019. If you meet all other eligibility requirements, this certification is what triggers a benefit payment to be released. You could expect your first payment during the week of January 6. For more information on how to complete the certification, refer to page 1 in our [Handbook for Unemployed Workers](#).

Q7. Do I need to look for work after I have filed a claim for unemployment insurance benefits?

A7. Yes, Michigan law requires you look for other work while receiving unemployment insurance benefits. Job search is required because we do not know when the federal government will re-open or if your job will be reinstated. This includes two steps: **Step One:** Register for work at [Pure Michigan Talent Connect](#) and visit your local [Michigan Works!](#) Service Center. To receive payment, this must be completed before your first certification. **Step Two:** Actively search for work every week by making at least two job contacts every week. Submit a record of work search activities for each week that you claim benefits, as this is subject to audit and verification.

Q8. How much will I be paid if I qualify for unemployment benefits?

A8. Michigan law requires that we consider wages that you earned over the last 18 months in calculating your weekly benefit amount. The maximum weekly benefit amount in Michigan is \$362 per week for 20 weeks. For more information on how benefits are calculated, refer to pages 9 and 10 in our [Handbook for Unemployed Workers](#).

Q9. What do I do with my claim when I return to work?

A9. When you return to work, simply stop certifying for benefits and your claim will automatically close. If you receive any back pay after this time, you are required to report that payment immediately. Instructions for reporting these earnings may be found on the Unemployment Insurance website at www.michigan.gov/uia.

Contacting Us

ONLINE: Visit www.michigan.gov/uia and log into your MiWAM account. You must sign in with MiLogin to register or access your MiWAM account.

BY PHONE: Call 866-500-0017, Monday through Wednesday, 7:00 am until 6:00 pm and Thursday and Friday, 7:00 am until 5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time, and select the option to speak to a Customer Service Representative.

IN PERSON: Visit your Unemployment Insurance Local Office. Click [here](#) to find the nearest Local Office for a list of locations and times.