



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AGENCY
SHARON MOFFETT-MASSEY, DIRECTOR

MIKE ZIMMER
ACTING DIRECTOR

Questions and Answers Regarding the Disaster Unemployment Assistance Program

On September 25, 2014, President Obama issued a major disaster declaration as a result of the severe storms and flooding in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties from August 11-13, 2014. Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-4195-DR makes available federal funding for a variety of assistance programs including unemployment benefits.

Who should apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits?

In order to become eligible for DUA, an individual:

- Must be an unemployed or self-unemployed worker whose unemployment was caused as a direct result of the major disaster declared by the President;
- Must be a U.S. national or a qualified alien; and
- Must not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits from any state; and
- Must have worked, were self-employed, or were scheduled to begin work or self-employment in Wayne, Oakland or Macomb counties and
- Must establish that the work or self-employment they can no longer perform was their primary source of income.

Also eligible to apply for DUA are individuals who:

- Can no longer work or perform services because of physical damage or destruction to the place of employment as a direct result of a disaster; or
- Cannot perform work or self-employment because of an injury caused as a direct result of the disaster; or
- Became the breadwinner or major support of a household because of the death of the head of the household; or
- Cannot work or perform self-employment due to closure of a facility by the federal government.

What is the deadline for filing?

Applications for DUA must be filed by November 3, 2014.

Applications filed after November 3, 2014 will be considered untimely, unless the individual provides good cause for filing after this date.

How do I apply for DUA?

Your eligibility for regular state UI benefits will be determined first before your eligibility for DUA benefits will be considered.

Workers must file for and be denied regular state unemployment benefits before filing an application for DUA benefits. Apply for regular state unemployment benefits online through the Michigan Web Account Manager (MiWAM) at www.michigan.gov .

If you are denied regular state unemployment benefits and believe you are eligible for DUA, visit the UIA website at www.michigan.gov/UIA for a DUA application packet. You may also contact the UIA at 1-866-500-0017 (TTY customers use 1-866-366-0004. More information about DUA, is also available on the UIA website at www.michigan.gov/uia.

What do I need to apply?

Individuals will need their Social Security Number and the name and address of their last employer or prospective employer. Applicants are also required to provide proof (at the time of filing, or within 21 days of filing their DUA claim) that they were employed or self-employed at the time the disaster occurred or were scheduled to begin (or resume) a job or self-employment when the disaster occurred. To receive the maximum benefit allowed, a copy of the most recent federal income tax forms or check stubs may be required.

How many weeks of benefits will I receive?

A uniform disaster period will be established for all applicants. Individuals can generally receive up to 32 weeks of DUA benefits as long as his/her unemployment continues to be a result of the disaster. Eligibility for DUA benefits will be determined on a week-to-week basis.

What is the weekly benefit amount?

The minimum weekly benefit amount for full-time workers is \$147.00, and the maximum is \$362.00, depending upon earnings. Part-time workers may be entitled to a reduced amount depending upon earnings.

How is DUA funded?

The U.S. Secretary of Labor is authorized to administer DUA, using the federal-state unemployment (UI) system to take applications, process them, and disburse payments. Funds are provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for DUA benefits. These funds are federally appropriated and are not derived from employer payroll taxes used to finance the regular UI program.

How can I find out more about DUA?

- 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 your local UIA Problem Resolution Office. Find a list of locations on the UIA website at www.michigan.gov/uia.