

Your Logo

Your Legal Services Program Name

DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. I lost my job after the disaster. Am I eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)?

If you are unemployed because of the disaster, you may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) even if you do not qualify for regular Unemployment Compensation (UC). For example, you may be eligible for DUA if:

- A. You became unemployed as a direct result of the disaster; or
 - B. You are unable to reach your workplace because of the disaster; or
 - C. You were supposed to start work at a new job, but you lost the job because of the disaster; or
 - D. You became the breadwinner for your household after the head of household died because of the disaster; or
 - E. You cannot work because of an injury caused by the disaster.
2. Can I qualify for Disaster Unemployment Assistance if I am self-employed?

Yes, if you are self-employed, you may qualify for DUA if:

- A.. You became unemployed as a direct result of the disaster; or
- B. You are unable to reach the place where you perform your services; or
- C. You were supposed to start self-employment but you don't have a place to perform the work because of the disaster; or
- D. You cannot work because of an injury caused by the disaster.

- 3. What else do I need to show to be eligible for DUA benefits?**

You will also need to show that:

- A. You worked enough during the last calendar year; and.
 - B. You have registered for work at your local One-Stop Center and are able and available for work, unless:
 - 1. You were injured as a result of the hurricane and are unable to work because of the injury; or
 - 2. You were self-employed before the hurricane, and you are trying to get your business back in order.
4. Are immigrants eligible for DUA?

Yes, if you have valid work papers and are a U.S. citizen, lawful permanent resident (green

card holder),
refugee, asylee, Cuban/Haitian entrant, parolee for one year or more, conditional entrant, victim
of
domestic violence, or you have been granted withhold of deportation.

5. Where do I apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance?

There are three ways to apply, but the internet or telephone methods are better than mail or fax:

- a. By telephone - Call 1-800-204-2418.
- b. On the internet - at www.fluidnow.com. You can apply using a computer at the One-Stop Center nearest you.
- c. By mail or fax - Call 1-866-724-5470 to get an application. Fax it to 1-954-730-2642, or mail it to Agency for Workforce Innovation, P.O. Box 5608, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310-5608.

Whatever way you choose, make sure to let them know that you are filing a **disaster-related** claim.

6. When should I apply for DUA?

You must file for DUA within 30 days after the disaster, unless the application deadline is extended. You should apply as soon as possible since you may have to wait three weeks before your first check is sent to you. If you were not able to apply before the deadline, you still may be able to apply if you have a good reason for not applying sooner. If you think you have a good reason, but you were told you cannot apply because it is more than 30 days after the disaster, please contact our office for help.

7. How long can I receive DUA benefits?

You can only receive DUA benefits for 26 weeks (6 months) after a disaster.

8. What if I am told that I am not eligible for DUA benefits?

You have the right to appeal the decision within twenty (20) days from the date on the Notice of Determination. Your case will be scheduled for a hearing before an Appeals Referee. If you need a translator, you should ask for one right away. At the hearing, you will need to explain to the Appeals Referee why the decision was wrong and you are entitled to DUA. You should bring witnesses and documents with you to prove your case.

If you have other questions or would like help with your unemployment claim, please contact our nearest office.

Your Legal Services Office Contact Information