



- Providing a documented job search for each week of benefits they receive;
- Possibly taking a minimum wage position if local labor market information shows prospects of obtaining work in their usual occupation within a short period of time are not favorable; and
- Accepting work if the weekly gross earnings offered equal or exceed their weekly UI benefit amount, excluding the extra \$25 federal stimulus payment currently being added to each week of UI benefits.

For example, someone collecting a maximum weekly benefit amount of \$450 each week in FED ED benefits would have to accept a job that pays as little as \$11.25 per hour. Failure to do so could disqualify a claimant from further benefits.

### **Eligibility Period Extended for First Federal Extensions**

In addition to the FED ED extension of benefits, the federal stimulus package has also extended the eligibility period for those exhausting their first 26 weeks of regular UI benefits. Up until recently, someone would have to run out of their original claim benefits by the end of this month in order to qualify for any federally extended benefits. However, that deadline has now been pushed back to the end of 2009 to provide added assistance to the growing number of unemployed workers over the last few months.

EDD is also now able to automatically transition those who exhaust their regular UI claim into federal extension claims without the claimant having to reapply or contact the department. Some of the eligibility gaps created when Congress approved the second extension originally required claimants to fill out a new application for benefits.

The department is processing an unprecedented number of UI claims, at least double the demand of a year ago. A total of \$77 million a day is currently being paid in UI benefits with \$45 million of that in regular UI benefits, \$26 million in federal extension benefits, and another \$6 million in federal stimulus payments, which works out to an additional \$25 a week for every UI client. That's money critical to unemployed workers and their local communities.

Information about federally extended benefits and regular UI claims is available on EDD's Web site at [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov). You can also submit questions through the ContactEDD feature on the front page. A vast majority of unemployed workers should be able to file their claims and submit their questions or concerns online.

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For news media inquiries only, contact the California Employment Development Department (EDD) Communications Office, at (916) 654-9029. TTY users, please call the California Relay Service at 711.