

N E W S R E L E A S E

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**End of the year set to bring end to federal extensions of
unemployment benefits**
An estimated 400,000 Californians face sudden stop in assistance

SACRAMENTO – After four-and-a-half years and more than \$40 billion in benefits paid to Californians in need, federally extended unemployment benefits are coming to an end. Unless the U.S. Congress takes action to further extend benefits, the program that has provided up to 73 weeks of additional benefits for the unemployed after their state unemployment benefits run out is facing the prospect of paying no further benefits after the week ending December 29, 2012.

The California Employment Development Department (EDD), which administers the regular state Unemployment Insurance (UI) program in California, along with the federal extension program known as Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC), is preparing to send out notices to alert an estimated 400,000 Californians of the upcoming end of their federal extensions.

“We at EDD understand how critical unemployment benefits can be to unemployed workers, their families, and the businesses in their communities,” acknowledged EDD’s Director Pam Harris. “That’s why we want to make sure that anyone relying on federal extension benefits are alerted to the fast-approaching end to the program and can plan accordingly.”

The EDD estimates close to 400,000 Californians are currently certifying for federal extension benefits. Their payments are set to cease at the end of the year – even if they have a remaining balance on their federal extension claim.

The first tier of federally funded extension benefits became available in California in July 2008 when the recession was taking hold. Three other tiers of federal extensions and a final separate extended benefits program (known in California as FED-ED) were added over the years that totaled up to 73 weeks of additional benefits available to unemployed workers who ran out of their regular state benefits. Regular California benefits provide up to 26 weeks of assistance. For several years that made the maximum total amount of unemployment assistance available up to 99 weeks of benefits. That maximum total dropped back down to 79 weeks in May of this year, and then down to 73 weeks in September.

Over the last few years, close to 900,000 unemployed workers in California have run out of all available benefits - up to the maximum of 99 weeks. The federal extension program has paid a total of more than \$40 billion in benefits in the state since the first tier became available in 2008. That's money that helps unemployed workers and their families along with their local communities.

In addition to the notices, EDD will also be including messages about the end of the federal extension program to anyone who may qualify for a new extension claim between now and the end of the year when their regular benefits run out.

The EDD encourages our customers to closely monitor our website at www.edd.ca.gov and our [Facebook](#) page for any further developments. Customers can also sign up for our [Twitter](#) messages so they are alerted as soon as any new information is posted on our website.

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