

N E W S R E L E A S E

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More than 222,000 Californians face loss of federal unemployment extension benefits at the end of the year

Impacted individuals are advised on additional resources

SACRAMENTO – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) is notifying more than 222,000 long-term unemployed Californians that they will lose their federally-funded extended unemployment benefits at the end of this year. Unless Congress and the President agree to renew the extensions, California and all other states can no longer pay any federal extension benefits for weeks ending after December 28, 2013. The Unemployment Insurance (UI) program will then return to providing only initial state-provided benefits that will still be available for up to 26 weeks.

“We’re notifying unemployment claimants of this approaching federal benefits cutoff to ensure that everyone is aware of the situation,” said Sharon Hilliard, EDD’s Chief Deputy Director. “We want to make certain that people know what to expect so they can plan their personal finances accordingly. In addition, we’re also providing information on a wide range of federal, state and local resources that may be helpful for them and their families.”

The EDD is sending out notices advising affected claimants that the week ending December 28, 2013, will be the last week any federal extension benefits can be paid, even if someone is still unemployed and/or has a remaining balance on their extension. That means unless Congress takes any further action, there will be no phase-out of these benefits – all extension payments will come to an end at the same time.

More than 617,000 Californians are currently certifying for unemployment benefits, down from the early September estimate of 770,000 mostly due to the recent end to Tier 4 extension benefits here in California. Approximately one-third of the current customers are longer-term unemployed who are receiving federal extensions and who will be immediately impacted by the upcoming cutoff. They are strongly encouraged to closely monitor the EDD website page on federal extensions at www.edd.ca.gov for details on any developments over the next several weeks.

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Extension Impact in California

During the past five and a half years of high unemployment, a total of \$44.6 billion in extension benefits have been paid to the long-term unemployed in California, which includes these federal extension benefits as well as the separate extended benefits known in California as FED-ED that ended in May 2012. At the peak of the recession, the federal government provided up to 73 weeks of extended unemployment benefits in addition to the regular 26 weeks of state unemployment benefits.

Late last year the fate of the extensions was in doubt until the President and Congress reached a last-minute agreement on legislation renewing the added benefits until the end of 2013. That legislation continued the four tiers of federal extensions, which were enacted over the years in response to massive job losses spawned by the great recession. However, as the economy improved, legislation eventually reduced the maximum federal benefits currently available here in California to 37 weeks and extended the benefits only until the end of this year.

The EDD is sending notices to the estimated 222,000 claimants who are currently certifying for federal extension benefits. The letters advise them of the scheduled upcoming cutoff of these extension payments and refer them to agencies that provide a wide variety of assistance, including:

- **AMERICA'S JOB CENTERS OF CALIFORNIA (AJCC)**

EDD and a variety of state and local agencies provide a broad range of employment and training services – including résumé and job search assistance – in local AJCC offices throughout the state. Many offices also offer “Experience Unlimited” networking and training groups, which have helped many unemployed individuals find their next job opportunity. More information is available on EDD’s website (www.edd.ca.gov) and [YouTube channel](#). To find the nearest Job Center, visit www.americasjobcenter.ca.gov or call 1-877-US2-JOBS (available 24 hours per day, 7 days a week).

- **WE CONNECT**

WE Connect is a national program that connects families to valuable programs and services that can help them get ahead. Several of these programs, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), are available and accessible to families. Online at www.weconnect.net.

- **KEEP YOUR HOME CALIFORNIA**

Keep Your Home California is a federally funded foreclosure prevention program that offers assistance to distressed homeowners. Up to \$3,000 in free monthly mortgage help is available for qualified unemployed homeowners for as long as twelve months. Information is available online at www.KeepYourHomeCalifornia.org. Homeowners can call 1-888-982-KEEP (5337) to apply. Homeowners must have received unemployment benefits within 30 days of requesting mortgage assistance. If you are interested in this program, it is important to apply immediately.

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- **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS)**

The CDSS administers or oversees programs that help nearly 3 million California residents – cash aid and employment services for families through the California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program; food assistance through the CalFresh Program; child care, residential or in-home care; and services or assistance for disabled individuals. Go online to www.benefitscal.org for more information on these programs and other local resources throughout California. Local resources can also be found under the county government listings section of your local phone book.

- **211 DIRECTORY – CONNECT WITH YOUR COUNTY**

This easy to remember phone number connects people with important community services in most counties. Spearheaded by United Way, 2-1-1 provides a free and confidential way to connect with nearby community services. Online at www.211us.org, or dial 2-1-1 by telephone.

Further information on these and other assistance services for unemployed individuals can be found on the "Additional Resources" page on EDD's website at www.edd.ca.gov/About_EDD/Additional_Resources.htm.

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