

FACT SHEET



FEDERAL DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR THE DECEMBER 2017 AND JANUARY 2018 WILDFIRES AND MUDSLIDES

Are you out of work due to the recent wildfires or mudslides? Are you a business owner or self-employed and unable to operate your business due to the recent wildfires or mudslides?

The federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program, administered by the Employment Development Department (EDD), provides financial support to those impacted by the December 2017 and January 2018 California wildfires, flooding, mudslides, and debris flows in Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties.

The DUA program provides temporary unemployment assistance to individuals whose work or self-employment is interrupted due to a major disaster and who do not qualify for regular state-funded unemployment benefits. This includes employees, farmworkers, and business owners who may not normally qualify for regular state-provided unemployment benefits.

Who Can Qualify

DUA benefits are offered to victims of the California wildfire disasters who are unemployed as a direct result of these disasters and who meet one of the following eligibility conditions:

- Have applied, qualified for, and received all regular unemployment benefits from California or any other state; **or**
- Have applied for regular unemployment benefits in California or any other state, but do not qualify to receive the regular unemployment benefits; **or**
- Have worked, were self-employed, or were scheduled to begin work or self-employment, in the disaster area and cannot work or perform services due to the disaster; **or**
- Can demonstrate that the work or self-employment they can no longer perform was their primary source of income; **or**
- Cannot perform work or self-employment because of an injury as a direct result of the disaster and do not qualify for State Disability Insurance benefits; **or**
- Became the head of their households because of a death caused by the disaster.

Individuals who have applied for and were qualified to receive regular state UI benefits from California or any other state must receive all of their benefits before they can qualify for DUA benefits.

The EDD will file a regular UI claim for all applicants to first determine if they qualify for regular state UI benefits. If they don't qualify for regular state UI benefits, then the EDD will automatically file a federal DUA claim and determine if they meet the eligibility criteria for those benefits. The EDD will notify applicants by mail of the type of benefits they are potentially eligible to receive.

Individuals who are not U.S. Citizens or Nationals must be able to show they have current authorization to work in the United States to receive DUA benefits.

How to Get Started

To start the process, you must file a claim by **February 20, 2018**. This deadline may be extended if you can show a good reason for why you did not file by that date.

The fastest way to file is online through eApply4UI available on EDD's website at www.edd.ca.gov. You may also file by phone between 8 a.m. to 12 noon, Monday through Friday:

- English: 1-800-300-5616
- Spanish: 1-800-326-8937
- Chinese (Cantonese): 1-800-547-3506
- Chinese (Mandarin): 1-866-303-0706
- Vietnamese: 1-800-547-2058

All disaster victims are encouraged to apply to avoid losing out on these valuable benefits and should note on their applications that they are out of work due to the wildfires, flooding, mudslides, or debris flows.

Proof of Employment

To receive DUA benefits, you must show proof that you were employed or self-employed when the disaster occurred or that you were to begin work on or after the date of the disaster. All documentation must be submitted within 21 calendar days from the day you filed your application. Proof includes, check stubs, recent federal income tax returns, bank statements, work orders, affidavits from individuals having knowledge of your work or self-employment, or other documents to support that you were working, or that you are self-employed, or scheduled to work when the disaster occurred.

Benefit Amounts and Duration

Once you are determined eligible, your benefit amount will range from \$40 to \$450 per week. Benefits are payable beginning the week of December 10, 2017, or the date you first became unemployed due to the disasters, whichever date is later. You may receive DUA benefits as long as you remain unemployed as a direct result of these disasters, or until the week ending July 7, 2018, whichever comes first. The last week DUA benefits may be paid is the week ending July 7, 2018, even if individuals are still unemployed due to these disasters.

Other Helpful State Resources

Below is a list of additional resources that may assist you in this difficult time. In many parts of California, you can call 2-1-1 to learn about additional resources in your community or contact the agencies and organizations listed below to inquire about their programs. Some programs may have eligibility criteria.

Basic Necessities Assistance

- **California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)**

Cash assistance to families with children and pregnant women in the last 120 days of pregnancy, who have little or no assets or income. Visit www.cdss.ca.gov/CalWorks or call 1-877-847-3663.

- **e-Benefits California**

Connecting people with services in their county, such as Medi-Cal, CalFresh (formerly known as Food Stamps), and California Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs). Visit www.benefitscal.org. (Online resource only).

- **General Assistance or General Relief**

Loans or grants are available for adults without children who have little or no assets or income. Visit www.cwda.org or call 1-916-443-1749.

Food Assistance

- **CalFresh** (formerly known as Food Stamps)

The CalFresh Program helps low-income people buy nutritious food at most grocery stores and some farmer's markets. Visit www.calfresh.ca.gov or call 1-877-847-3663.

- **Emergency Food Assistance Program and Local Food Banks**

In California, federal, state and local community organizations coordinate to ensure that groceries are available at local food banks. Visit www.cafoodbanks.org. (Online resource only).

- **Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program**

Pregnant women and children under age five receive nutrition support at WIC. Visit www.fns.usda.gov/wic or call 1-888-942-9675.

Community-Based Resources

- **WE Connect**

Helpful resources on health, jobs, food, housing, tax help, and education for your family. Visit www.calendow.org/weconnect or call 1-800-449-4149.

For additional information on a wide variety of resources, including job search assistance and possible help with housing and medical care, visit the following websites:

- EDD's website at www.edd.ca.gov
- California Department of Social Services website at www.cdss.ca.gov
- California Immigrant Guide at www.immigrantguide.ca.gov/en/DisasterRelief

The EDD is an equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Request for services, aids, and/or alternate formats need to be made prior to the event by calling 1-866-490-8879 (voice). TTY users, please call the California Relay Services at 711.