

N E W S R E L E A S E

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**Disaster Unemployment Assistance filing deadline extended for  
fire-impacted individuals in six California counties**

**Eligible claimants may apply for emergency unemployment benefits until November 30**

SACRAMENTO – The U.S. Department of Labor, on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), has extended the filing deadline for federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits previously made available to fire-impacted individuals in six California counties.

Eligible individuals who lost work or self-employment as a direct result of the Dixie Fire in Plumas, Lassen, and Tehama counties; the River Fire in Placer and Nevada counties; the McFarland Fire in Trinity and Tehama counties; and the Monument Fire in Trinity County, now have until November 30, 2021 to apply for DUA benefits. The previous deadline was October 1.

The California Employment Development Department (EDD) administers these benefits, which are available to workers, business owners, and self-employed individuals who lost their jobs or businesses, or had their work hours reduced due to the ongoing wildfires. This emergency benefit approval is for [FEMA designated disaster area 4610-DR](#). DUA applies to losses beginning the week of July 18, 2021. [Eligible full-time workers are able to receive](#) between \$147 and \$450 a week in benefits for a maximum period of 32 weeks. Part-time workers may also be eligible for benefits. The last payable week for this federal emergency is February 26, 2022.

These DUA benefits are offered to victims of a disaster and are available to individuals who meet any of the following criteria:

- Worked or were a business owner or self-employed, or were scheduled to begin work or self-employment, in the disaster area. This includes, but is not limited to, those in the agricultural and fishing industries.
- Cannot reach work because of the disaster or can no longer work or perform services because of physical damage or destruction to the place of employment as a direct result of the disaster.
- Can establish that the work or self-employment they can no longer perform was their primary source of income.
- Cannot perform work or self-employment because of an injury as a direct result of the disaster.
- Became the head of their households because of a death caused by the disaster.

(more)

- Have applied for and used all regular unemployment benefits from any state, or do not qualify for regular unemployment benefits and remain unemployed as a direct result of the disaster.

Applications for DUA benefits must be filed by November 30, 2021 unless the individual has good cause to file a late application. In addition, to receive DUA benefits, all required documentation must be submitted within 21 days from the day the DUA application is filed. Required documentation includes the most recent federal income tax form or check stubs, or other documentation to support that the individuals were working or self-employed when the disaster occurred.

Documentation for the self-employed can be obtained from banks, government entities, or affidavits from individuals having knowledge of their business. The fastest and easiest way for new claimants to apply for DUA is to use [EDD's UI Online application](#), which is available in both English and Spanish.

Applicants can also get assistance [at local job centers](#) and Local Assistance Centers or Disaster Recovery Centers. Claimants can also apply for DUA by phone between 8 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., seven days a week:

- 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

[EDD's Disaster-Related Services](#) webpage includes more information for individuals and businesses impacted by disasters, including tax filing extensions for affected employers. EDD also encourages individuals to visit the [Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) wildfire recovery website for information on Local Assistance Centers where individuals, families and businesses can access disaster assistance programs and services.

The EDD administers the federal disaster-benefits program in California for the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration, on behalf of the Emergency Management Agency.

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