

Returning to Work

As California's economy reopens, job growth continues. The Employment Development Department (EDD) can help you navigate updated requirements for unemployment benefits and connect you with services to get you back to safe and suitable work.

Employment Services

EDD offers valuable job search assistance at no cost to help prepare you to re-enter the workforce. Employment specialists can help with job search strategies, career coaching, resume and interview preparation, and access to job fairs along with job training and apprenticeship programs available through America's Job Center of CaliforniaSM (AJCC). Visit our [Office Locator](#) to find virtual or in-person appointment services available near you.

CalJOBSSM

You can also search and apply for job openings in [CalJOBS](#), California's online labor exchange system. CalJOBS helps match qualified job seekers with employers and provides tools and resources to help you:

- Create and upload multiple versions of your resume for specific jobs or career paths.
- Receive automatic job alerts through the Virtual Recruiter and apply.
- Receive notifications of new job openings via text messages or email.
- Find education and training programs and learn about your local labor market.
- View events such as workshops and job fairs by location, or schedule an appointment.
- Access labor market trends and economic and demographic data to support your job search.

Visit [Labor Market Information for Job Seekers](#) for help finding jobs that are in demand. Use **Occupational Guides** or **Occupation Profile** to help explore career opportunities.

Work Search Requirement for Unemployment Benefits

Are you currently receiving unemployment benefits? If so, the requirement to look for work will be reinstated for most claimants **starting July 11, 2021**, in order to maintain eligibility for benefits. The requirement applies to finding suitable work that is safe to return to and is comparable to your skills, experience, usual occupation, age, and health.

There are different work search requirements that apply whether you are collecting benefits on a regular unemployment claim or extension, or on Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA).

- PUA was created to support those who did not qualify for a regular claim, such as the self-employed or small-business owners. Depending on the pandemic-related reason cited when certifying for benefits each week, you may not be available for work and will be exempt from the work search requirement for the week. For example, you are providing primary care for a child unable to attend school due to the COVID-19 health emergency.

Engaging in any of the activities listed on the back page can help you answer "Yes" to the question "Did you look for work?" when certifying for benefits. Answering "No" will lead to additional questions and possibly an eligibility interview to determine if you are eligible for benefits for that week.

Work Search Activities

Claim Type: Regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) or Extension Claims

Prepare for a Job Search -

Set up an account on CalJOBS, participate in employment services, post a profile on various job search sites available.

Expand Your Network -

Let friends, prior employers, and community members know you are looking for work. Participate in networking or job fair events or clubs.

Apply for Suitable Work -

Apply for positions with employers who may reasonably be expected to have openings suitable to your skills, experience, age, and health, including government jobs and exams.

Participate in Training -

Engage in courses that will help you gain employment and do not interfere with your ability to accept suitable full-time work. Includes options like computer literacy or English as Second Language (ESL) courses.

Claim Type:

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

NOTE: If you no longer want to continue self-employment, or were previously employed but not eligible for regular UI benefits, complete a work search activity listed in the left column.

Rebuild your Business -

For those available for work and self-employed, document efforts to obtain new or additional clients, market your business, review current contracts, and research new ones. Prepare and/or submit a bid on a contract.

Expand Your Network -

Attend networking events, participate in relevant workshops, or expand business beyond services typically performed.

Establish an Account -

For independent contractors available for work and who participated in an online platform, establish an account on another online platform for work that matches your qualifications.

Participate in Training -

Enroll in training or education courses that will help your business and do not interfere with your ability to return to full-time self-employment.

Exemptions from the Requirement to Search for Work

EDD will determine if those on a regular or extension claim qualify for an exemption from the work search requirement based on information provided when certifying. Exemptions include:

- You are participating in state-approved training, including the [California Training Benefits](#) program.
- You are participating in an employer-sponsored [Work Sharing](#) program.
- You are part of a union agreement governing work search requirements.
- You have a definite job promise within a reasonable time.
- Your layoff is temporary.
- Your specialized skill has limited job prospects.

Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment

When the work search requirement restarts, EDD may contact you by mail to attend a Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment appointment. This program is designed to support customers receiving UI benefits in re-entering the workforce with workshops and personalized eligibility reviews. If selected to participate, you must attend the appointment and complete the program's follow-up services. Failure to do so may affect your benefits.

Visit [Job Seekers: Returning to Work](#) for more information.