

FACT SHEET



FEDERAL DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR THE OCTOBER 2017 CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Immigrants, Farmworkers, and Self-Employed

Are you a farmworker or self-employed? Are you out of work due to the recent wildfires?

There is a federal program administered by the Employment Development Department (EDD), called Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) that can provide some financial support to those impacted by the California wildfires in Butte, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sonoma, and Yuba counties.

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

Who Can Qualify

DUA unemployment insurance benefits are offered to victims of the California wildfire disasters, and are available to individuals who meet any one of the following eligibility conditions:

- Have applied and 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**
- Worked or were self-employed or were scheduled to begin work or self-employment in the disaster area but 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.

For individuals who applied for and were qualified to receive regular state Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits from California or any other state, they must receive all of their benefits before they can qualify to potentially receive DUA benefits.

For all applicants, the EDD will file a regular UI claim first to 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.

Additionally, individuals who are not U.S. Citizens or Nationals must be able to show they have current authorization to work in the United States.

How to Get Started

To start the process, you need to file a claim by **December 18, 2017**. The December 18th filing 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 8:00 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.

Proof of Employment

To receive DUA benefits, you must show proof that you were employed or self-employed when the disaster occurred or proof that you were to begin work on or after the date of the disaster. All documentation must be submitted within 21 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 self-employed 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 available up to 26 weeks beginning the week of October 15, 2017. The last week of DUA benefits you may be paid is the week ending April 14, 2018.

Other Helpful State Resources

Understanding that this is a difficult time, below is a list of additional resources that may assist you. In many parts of California, you can call 2-1-1 to learn about resources in your community or contact the agencies and organizations listed below directly 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**
This site connects people with services in their county, such as Medi-Cal, CalFresh (formerly known as Food Stamps), and California Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), including 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.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 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 5 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.