



EDD staff will be contacting those 120,000 workers to determine their eligibility. The staff is also recalculating benefits for the estimated 170,000 who are still collecting first extension benefits to reflect the new maximum claim of up to 20 weeks.

Workers potentially eligible for extended benefits:

- Are fully or partially unemployed on or after July 6, 2008,
- Have exhausted their entitlement to a regular UI claim,
- Are not qualified to file a new regular claim,
- Have had a valid claim that began on or after May, 2006, and
- Meet all eligibility criteria.

Due to eligibility requirements in the federal law, some workers will not be eligible for extended benefits if they have not earned enough wages in their base periods. The workers' base period is a 12-month period of earnings used to establish a UI claim and calculate their benefit awards.

The amount of weekly benefits will be equal to the amount the claimants were receiving on their original UI claim.

When individuals file for the extended benefits, EDD will provide them with claim forms for the first two weeks worth of benefits. These forms will be mailed during the week of December 8<sup>th</sup>. Once claimants properly complete the forms, mail them to EDD, and EDD receives these forms and screens them to insure each individual meets all eligibility criteria, claimants should start receiving their benefit checks shortly thereafter.

Workers who are collecting benefits on a regular UI claim but continue to experience difficulties in finding a new job may apply for extended benefits when they exhaust their entitlement to a regular UI claim. Extension claims must begin no later than March 22, 2009 for first federal extension claims and March 29, 2009 for second federal extension claims. Federal extension claims can not be paid after August 29, 2009.

EDD encourages those who are out of work to apply online at [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov) and click on "File a Claim for Unemployment" in the middle of the page. It's the fastest and most convenient way to file for Unemployment Insurance benefits. Or you can call 1-800-300-5616. Since high call volumes are anticipated, on-line filing is strongly encouraged.

Regular unemployment benefits are funded through a state tax levied on employers. Those contributions are deposited into California's UI Trust Fund. Extensions are paid for out of a separate account at the federal level. That account does include contributions from employers through the federal unemployment tax they pay to the IRS. The individual reserve accounts for each employer will not be charged for any extended benefits paid to claimants.

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For news media inquiries only, contact the California Employment Development Department (EDD) Communications Office, at (916) 654-9029. TTY users, please call the California Relay Service at 711.