

Workers who file new claims on or before Dec. 20, 2009, will also receive the \$25 additional payment. The \$25 payments will continue to be paid until July 3, 2010.

The federal government is funding the stimulus benefits, which are expected to total about \$1.1 billion for the California economy. The additional payments will not reduce future benefits to unemployed workers, and they will not increase the amount of state UI taxes employers pay for their workers.

Eligibility Period Expanded for Federal UI Extension Benefits

The stimulus legislation also greatly increases the number of workers eligible for federal UI benefit extensions which added up to 33 weeks of benefits to the maximum of 26 weeks of regular benefits that unemployed workers may receive.

The legislation lengthens the period of time for which workers can apply for the two UI benefit extensions approved by Congress last year. The deadline for filing for the extensions was originally the end of March 2009. The stimulus bill extends the deadline for filing for the first benefit extension to Dec. 20, 2009, and for the second extension to Dec. 27, 2009.

Further information on UI benefits and the economic stimulus payments is available on EDD's Web site at www.edd.ca.gov.

EDD encourages those who are filing for UI benefits to use *eApply4UI*, the online application method available on the department's Web site, which is the fastest, most convenient way to apply for unemployment benefits, and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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