



- Creating alternatives to the current 1-800 number for handling more routine inquiries;
- Developing new materials so the process of applying for UI benefits and submitting forms will be easier; and
- Purchasing new equipment that will increase online access.

EDD is now paying a total of \$77 million a day in regular UI and federal extension benefits. This includes an additional \$6 million in federal stimulus payments, which works out to an additional \$25 a week for every UI client – money critical to unemployed workers and to their local communities. In fact, California was one of the few states that were able to start paying those stimulus payments on the first day of eligibility.

Most importantly, unemployed workers need timely UI benefit payments. And despite the record demand that is occurring, unemployed workers should receive their first benefit check within three weeks of applying for benefits, barring any eligibility issues. That is the fastest that checks can be issued under the requirements of the program. Following the initial check, claimants should receive subsequent checks every two weeks after submitting their bi-weekly claim forms.

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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.