EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The California Employment Development Department (EDD) offers a wide variety of services to millions of Californians under the Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, State Disability Insurance, Workforce Investment, and Labor Market Information programs. As California’s largest tax collection agency, the EDD also handles the collection, accounting, and auditing of payroll taxes and maintains employment records for nearly 17 million California workers.

One of the largest departments in state government, the EDD has nearly 10,000 employees providing services at hundreds of service locations throughout California. Here is a brief look at the EDD’s activities:

Employment Service

The EDD’s Employment Service is authorized by the federal Wagner-Peyser Act, as amended by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998. The Employment Service is an integral part of the America’s Job Center of California℠ delivery system that provides universal access to an integrated array of labor exchange and WIA services statewide. Based on customer choice, these quality services are provided via self-service, facilitated self-help service, and staff-assisted service.

Each year, the EDD:

- Facilitates the match between California employers and qualified job seekers based on employers’ requirements and job seekers’ qualifications.
- Provides comprehensive services to employers, and offers a web-based system (CalJOBS℠) that enables employers to place jobs directly and search, screen, and select employees from a database of résumés.
- Enables job seekers to self-register and produce quality résumés through CalJOBS℠ so they can self-search and self-refer to job openings.
- Is committed to state and local economic development and workforce preparation services.
- Assures priority of services to veterans.
- Provides labor market information to employers, job seekers, and others, including policy makers, economic developers, economists, and planners.
- Offers programs that provide many valuable services, such as job search workshops, case management services, and referral to education, training, and supportive services to client groups with special needs.

State Disability and Unemployment Insurance

Through the Unemployment Insurance (UI) and State Disability Insurance (SDI) programs, the EDD provides partial wage-replacement benefits to eligible California workers. These insurance programs provide a strong stabilizer to California’s economy and are designed to assist those who are out of work.

Funded through employee payroll deductions, SDI provides Disability Insurance (DI) benefits to eligible workers who suffer a loss of wages when they are unable to work due to their own non-work-related illness, injury, or pregnancy.

California workers who are covered by the SDI program are eligible for Paid Family Leave (PFL) benefits. PFL compensates covered workers who suffer a wage loss due to the need to provide care for a seriously ill child, spouse, parent, or registered domestic partner, or to bond with a new child.

Both DI and PFL claims may be filed online using SDI Online, which is available at www.edd.ca.gov. Information is available by phone and online 24 hours a day. In person assistance continues to be offered at all local SDI sites.

The UI program is funded from UI taxes paid by employers on the first $7,000 of each employee’s wages. The UI provides unemployment insurance payments to workers who lose their job through no fault of their own and who are able to work, available for work, looking for work each week, and who meet all other UI eligibility requirements.
For UI claims, the EDD offers multiple filing methods including Internet, telephone, mail, and fax. Additional information, the UI Internet application (eApply4UI), and mail/fax UI applications are available on the EDD’s website at www.edd.ca.gov. Claim information is available by phone 24 hours a day.

In 2013, the EDD:
- Paid $6.1 billion in regular UI benefits (excluding any federal extensions), and over $4.5 billion in SDI benefits.
- Received and processed more than 2.9 million initial regular UI claims (excluding extensions) and over 926,000 SDI claims.

**Employment Training Panel**

The Employment Training Panel (ETP) provides funds to California businesses to support workforce training programs as follows:
- Retraining programs to train current employees of companies facing out-of-state competition – Primarily companies in manufacturing, biotechnology and life sciences, information technology services, health care, and other high wage/high skill sectors.
- New-Hire programs to train current UI recipients and/or those who have exhausted their UI benefits within the previous 24 months.
- Special Employment Training programs for companies and/or frontline workers who meet the eligibility requirements below:
  - Small business owners.
  - Workers of companies that do not face out-of-state competition.
  - Workers who earn at least the state average hourly wage.
  - Workers with barriers to full-time employment.
  - Workers employed by companies in seasonal industries.

The ETP also funds training to support workforce development for veterans, at-risk youth, and displaced workers impacted by the recent drought. Additionally, the ETP program provides workforce training funds to support career technical education and apprenticeship programs, and partners with the California Energy Commission to deliver workforce development and training that supports the development and employment of renewable and alternative fuels and clean vehicle technologies in the marketplace. For more information, visit the ETP Internet site at www.etp.ca.gov.

**Tax**

The EDD administers the collection, accounting, and auditing functions of California’s payroll tax program. The program consists of UI and Employment Training Tax, which are employer contributions, and SDI and Personal Income Tax (PIT), which are withheld from employees’ wages. The Tax Branch performs the following activities to support the state’s employment tax program:
- Collect payroll taxes.

In SFY 2012-13, nearly $56 billion was collected including more than $44 billion in PIT.
- Process employer tax documents and remittances.
  - In SFY 2012-13 more than 37 million documents were captured.
- Collect benefit overpayments from claimants.
  - In SFY 2012-13 more than $169 million was collected.
- Collect new hire and independent contractor information to support programs, which locates parents who are delinquent in their child support obligations.
- Provide outreach and education to employers regarding their state employment tax obligations in order to help promote voluntary compliance.
- Lead the Joint Enforcement Strike Force to help combat the underground economy, a partnership of seven state agencies that combat non-compliance with state tax, labor, and licensing laws.
- Provide employers and agents online access to their accounts through EDD’s e-Services for Business. They can manage their payroll tax accounts, make deposits, file returns, and more, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For additional information go to https://eddservices.ca.gov.

**Labor Market Information**

As the major source of labor market information in California, the EDD provides national, state, and local area employment and unemployment statistics, economic planning information, career information, and other labor market statistics. Visit LMID’s website at www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov to access data, applied research studies, and publications on a wide variety of economic and employment issues, needed to make informed decisions. Information is available on employment, unemployment, industry and occupational outlook, wages, social and demographic characteristics, and other labor market topics. Locally based staff can assist customers to locate and understand the local information they need.

**Additionally, the EDD:**
- Works with the California Employer Advisory Council, the statewide umbrella organization for 45 local Employer Advisory Councils located throughout the state. Members represent a cross-section of business and industry, and their mission is to assist the EDD in improving services to California’s employers.
- Offers business owners and self-employed individuals the opportunity to protect themselves against loss of income due to a disabling condition, or the need to care for an ill family member, or bond with a new child through the SDI Elective Coverage program.
- Works with local community groups to develop programs that increase employment and educational opportunities for people with special needs.

To find the EDD office nearest you, visit our Internet site at www.edd.ca.gov.

The EDD is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.