

N E W S R E L E A S E

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EDD Issues Unemployment Benefits Update

SACRAMENTO—The California Employment Development Department (EDD) today announced unemployment insurance program updates including work to automate the reapplication process for many Californians reaching the end of their benefit year. The new process will increase the number of people who will be able to continue receiving benefits without having to reapply when their initial claim expires.

The Department continues to see large numbers of claimants with questions about having to reapply to continue receiving benefits after the benefit year ends on their initial claim. In response and to improve customer service, EDD is continuing efforts to automate workload wherever possible. EDD will soon be further streamlining the re-application process for many people.

Under the new process, claimants who did **not** earn wages in the last 18 months will no longer have to reapply for benefits. Instead, EDD will automatically process benefits on their behalf and add a federal extension to the expired claim, or continue their existing extension. This automation will occur regardless of the type of claim--such as a regular claim, federal extension, or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. These claimants will need to continue certifying for benefits, and EDD will notify them when the additional benefit weeks are processed.

Claimants who did earn enough wages in the past 18 months to potentially establish a new claim will still have to reapply for benefits, even if they are currently on an extension. EDD will then establish a new regular claim or deliver extended federal benefits on their behalf. All claimants will continue to be notified by email, text message and UI Online if they need to reapply.

Claimants can determine if they have enough earnings (as reported to EDD by employers) to require a new application by logging into UI Online and attempting to select "File New Claim." The new application will only proceed if a new application is necessary. Claimants can also review the online [Unemployment Insurance Benefit Calculator](#) for information about the amount of wages required to establish a claim or to see [how benefits are computed](#).

EDD is working to implement this automation change in the coming weeks and will issue another public update when the process is complete.

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Thwarting Scammers, Curbing Fraud, and Helping Identity Theft Victims

EDD shut the door last year on unprecedented levels of criminal fraud by launching new identity verification and robust fraud filters that check claimant information against extensive databases, including law enforcement records.

In January 2021, the Department began an analysis of 1.48 million claims from 2020 that were suspended and flagged for further review. Of these, EDD asked 1.3 million to verify identity and asked 153,000 to verify eligibility. Forty-five percent successfully verified their information and were cleared to resume receiving benefits as early as January. The remaining 55 percent did not provide the required information and were disqualified from payment. The status of these disqualifications could then include further investigation, [appeal by the claimant](#), or efforts to recoup the [overpayment of benefits](#) through the existing unemployment insurance program process.

The Department is continually working to refine its identity verification and screening tools to reduce impacts to verified claimants. Other actions the Department has taken to curb fraud and prevent it from happening again include:

- Warning customers about a recent wave of [text-message scams](#).
- New partnerships with law enforcement and other states to share data with other jurisdictions to help catch multi-state fraudsters.
- Cross-referencing data against law enforcement records.
- Suspending payment to investigate suspicious multiple claims from single addresses.
- Thwarting scammers by no longer automatically backdating federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance claims, a program that was vulnerable to fraud.

EDD has posted resources for Californians to help fight fraud and avoid new scams. A [What You Should Know About Unemployment Scammers](#) guide is posted in multiple languages on the [Help Fight Fraud](#) page.

Many Options to Search for Work and Boost Training

As California's economy continues to reopen, EDD has useful resources to help people find jobs and get training leading to quality jobs in California's demand industries. While there is no current [requirement for claimants to search for work](#) and access a range of reemployment services to be eligible for unemployment benefits, there are many opportunities to do so. In addition, the flexible requirement to search for suitable work will resume in the future.

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Searching for suitable work includes any reasonable effort the job seeker makes to find work. This can include searching for jobs at www.CalJOBS.ca.gov, applying for jobs, contacting past employers, sending resumes to employers, checking trade books, registering with placement facilities, attending job fairs, adding a resume to a job board, participating in job training or networking events, creating a profile on a professional networking site, and many other activities.

EDD's [job search tool box](#) can help California job seekers find work, explore careers, and get job training. [The Path To Your Next Job](#) video gives job seekers 10 steps to employment, including how to register with--[CalJOBS](#), a virtual job center with hundreds of thousands of open job postings and tools to help people find work. EDD also has information about how workers can find information about [job training](#).

[CalJOBS](#) is a no-cost virtual job center with hundreds of thousands of job postings and tools to help people find work. It is also an excellent resource where employers can post job openings and find qualified job seekers to fill their positions. CalJOBS includes job listings from dozens of private job boards and recruitment sites, Fortune 1,000 companies, educational institutions, thousands of local, state and federal agencies, hundreds of healthcare organizations and many more public, private and non-profit employers. More than one million job openings from over 35,000 employers were posted on CalJOBS in the past 90 days.

America's Job Center of California provides no-cost services, tools, and resources for job seekers. Staff assess skills, develop individual employment plans, connect people to job training and more. Job search workshops and activities include developing résumés and cover letters, searching and applying for job openings, interview techniques and more. Workers can visit the [Jobs Center finder](#) to locate America's Job Center of California services in their local community.

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