



Unemployment for Federal Employees During a Government Shutdown



We know the impact of a federal shutdown can be challenging for you and your family. If you're a federal employee not working because of a furlough or lay off, you may qualify for unemployment benefits.

California offers many services including unemployment benefits and help finding a new job. Visit [Resources for Federal Workers](https://edd.ca.gov/FederalWorkers) (edd.ca.gov/FederalWorkers) for more.

We're here for you with the support you need, when you need it most.

What You Need to Know

- Apply online with [myEDD](https://myedd.edd.ca.gov) (myedd.edd.ca.gov) for the fastest service.
- Weekly benefits range from \$40–\$450 for up to 26 weeks.
- The first week of your claim is unpaid.
- If you end up receiving back pay, you'll need to repay your unemployment benefits.

Eligibility

You may be eligible for benefits if you meet all requirements, including:

- Are a federal employee not working because of a government shutdown.
- Are able and available to work even if your job is temporarily unavailable.
- Have earned enough wages in the past year.
- Are actively seeking work if your job status is uncertain.
- Are **not working and not receiving pay** during the shutdown.

Learn more about [Unemployment Eligibility Requirements](https://edd.ca.gov/UI_Eligibility) (edd.ca.gov/UI_Eligibility).

How to Apply

- **Gather your documents:** Have your separation form from your employer ready. This could be either the Standard Form 8 (SF8), *Notice to Federal Employee about Unemployment Insurance*, or the *Standard Form 50 (SF50), Notice of Personnel Action*.
- **Online (fastest):** Through [myEDD](https://myEDD.edd.ca.gov) (myEDD.edd.ca.gov), create an account or log in.
- **Phone:** Call 1-855-327-7055, between 8 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- **Fax:** Fill out the *Unemployment Insurance Application (Federal Employee)* (DE 1101IBD) and fax to 1-866-215-9159 from [Step 2: Apply](https://edd.ca.gov/en/unemployment/step-2-apply/) (edd.ca.gov/en/unemployment/step-2-apply/).
- **Mail:** Fill out and send the application to the address on the application.

You can request to backdate your claim to the first week affected by the shutdown. See more at [Unemployment](https://edd.ca.gov/Unemployment) (edd.ca.gov/Unemployment) on how to apply.

Next Steps

- **After you apply:** You'll get a letter with claim details and a *Continued Claim Form* (DE 4581) to certify for benefit payments.
- **Certify every two weeks:** Confirm you're still eligible to keep getting benefits. Certify online (fastest) through [myEDD](https://myEDD.edd.ca.gov) (myEDD.edd.ca.gov). By phone and mail is also available.
- **Receive Payments:** Choose to receive benefits by direct deposit (fastest), debit card, or mailed check through [myEDD](https://myEDD.edd.ca.gov) (myEDD.edd.ca.gov).

Before benefits can be paid, your wages must be verified by your employer. During a shutdown, delays can happen in processing unemployment claims. You could first see a \$0 award notice, *Notice of Unemployment Insurance Award* (DE 429Z), while we wait for your wages to be verified. Once they are, an updated notice will be sent to you.

Repaying Unemployment if You Receive Back Pay

If you get back pay for the same time you got unemployment benefits, you must repay those benefits. You'll get a notice explaining how much you owe and how to pay it back.

When the Shutdown Ends

- **Returning to full-time work?** Stop certifying, your claim will close automatically.
- **Working part-time?** You may still qualify. Keep certifying and report your wages before taxes.

EDD is an equal opportunity department for this information. If you need help or services because of a disability, call 1-866-490-8879. If you use a TTY, call the California Relay Service at 711.