

Disaster Unemployment Assistance FAQs

Administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity



What is Disaster Unemployment Assistance?

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) provides assistance to individuals whose employment has been either lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster, as declared by the President of the United States.

Am I eligible for DUA?

You may be eligible if you live or work in a disaster declared county and, as a direct result of the disaster, one or more of the following occurred: you became unemployed, you are not able to reach your place of employment, you cannot work due to an injury, you were scheduled to begin work but no longer have a job or you became the primary provider due to the death of the head of household.

How do I file a claim?

You can file your claim online at www.FloridaJobs.org, and select "File a Claim," or you can call 1-800-385-3920. You must file for state Reemployment Assistance benefits before filing for DUA. During the application you will be asked if you were impacted by the disaster. Your Reemployment Assistance claim will then be determined for eligibility. If you are determined ineligible or your state Reemployment Assistance benefits have been exhausted, you will then be prompted in CONNECT to file a DUA application.

What should I keep in mind when filing a DUA claim?

You must report all earnings weekly. If you are paid by your employer during your absence from work or if you return to work, you must report these earnings on your weekly request for benefits payment. Vacation pay must also be reported on your weekly request for benefits payment.

Proof of employment at the time of the disaster is required within 21 days of filing your DUA application. You can fax the required documents to 1-800-222-7934 or mail them to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity DUA Unit, P.O. Box 5350, Tallahassee, FL 32314. Your personal income tax return (Federal Form 1040 and attachments) or other proof of employment (e.g. 1099) and wages you earned in the 2019 tax year may also be requested.

How many weeks of DUA benefits assistance can I receive?

If you are eligible for DUA, you will be paid weekly benefits in accordance with federal and state regulations. The DUA benefit duration typically lasts up to 26 weeks.

How long will it take before I receive my benefits?

Each claim must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Our goal is to ensure a determination is made as quickly as possible in your time of need.

What if I am currently receiving state or federal Reemployment Assistance Benefits, such as Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) or Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)?

DUA has different eligibility requirements than Reemployment Assistance, PUA, and PEUC. These requirements do not always apply to those whose jobs or self-employment were affected by COVID-19. DUA is only available for those individuals who are unemployed as a direct result of a major disaster, such as a hurricane. If you are currently on PUA or PEUC, you will not be eligible for DUA.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call Federal Emergency Management Agency toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.

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