

The Guide to Filing for Unemployment Benefits.



This guide will help you file and obtain unemployment benefits.

It contains several sections:

- a. Common mistakes people make when filing
- b. Tips for the recently unemployed
- c. Information on how to quickly make some extra money, while waiting for your unemployment claim to be processed
- d. A list of state agencies, with a direct link to the unemployment filing section.

PLEASE NOTE WE CANNOT GIVE YOU ADVICE, LEGAL OR OTHERWISE; ON SPECIFIC UNEMPLOYMENT QUESTIONS.

Our “Application” section will have phone numbers for you, and we do our best to provide researched general information.

Please note portions of this book are under revision. As it is updated, it will be sent to you automatically.

Also, if you find out any portions of this book are outdated, please let us know at help@unemployment.me and we will send you a free gift once we verify the information. Your help will save time for others in your situation.

We hope you don't need this book for very long!

First, to collect unemployment, you must have worked. This disqualifies students and retirees.

Unemployment is managed by each state (+ DC), not the federal government, and therefore laws vary by area.

The amount of your awarded benefits will be a percentage of your previous income, as shown on your taxes over the last 12 months.

To qualify, all of these must be true:

- You were fully employed. Independent Contractors are usually not eligible.
- You are no longer fully employed, due to no fault of your own. Generally, if you quit, or were fired for which a cause for your being fired could be demonstrated, you will not be awarded benefits. If you were fired, you may still be awarded benefits unless the specific actions leading to your being fired are prohibited under law. Laws regarding payments if you quit vary by state but may allow for quitting to care for a seriously ill family member (illness must be documented), transportation failed and no suitable alternative exists (i.e. your car broke down and there is no bus route reasonably close), if you left to protect a family member from domestic violence (conditions apply).
 - Again if you were Fired due to poor performance, you may still be eligible. If you were fired due to criminal activity, you will not.
- You are physically and mentally able to work as defined by law. If you are not able to work, you will need doctor's orders showing this.
- In most states, you will need to register with the state's career center.
- You must be actively seeking work and making reasonable efforts to find employment each week. Enforcement or policing of this varies by state but is typically a questionnaire of activities.
- Once awarded, you must continue filing each week, most typically by phone or internet.

Generally, newspaper carriers under age 18, insurance agents, real estate agents paid only on commission, sold proprietor business owners and partners, children under age 21 employed by immediate family, or a spouse employed by immediate family, certain church or religious workers, railroad workers (railroads are self-insured; contact your union or employer if you worked for a railroad), or other types of commission-only sales professionals may not be eligible.

Next, how much can I get?

Often 40% of your previous income is a good guideline, however, this varies widely by state and qualifications. For that reason we strongly recommend you investigate the "Fast Cash" and "Side Income" sections of our website.

Your former employer will be notified of your request, and asked to complete a questionnaire, statement, or appear at a hearing (varies by state) regarding your unemployment.

Generally, if you need to appear, any initial hearing is informal. You will not need an attorney, and should just answer the questions truthfully and directly, with the assumption that information will be verified.

To file, you will most likely need:

- Mailing address, including zip code and phone number
- Social Security number
- Driver's License number (if you have one)
- Veteran/Military separation date
- Mother's maiden name (for security/access purposes)
- Name, address, phone number of your last employer
- Employer's Federal ID Number (from your W2 form or pay stub)
- Date started and date ended employment
- How much you earned
- Previous employer information, depending on how long you worked for your last employer.

Unemployment Insurance Benefits Contact Information

Please find the unemployment insurance contact information and link to the online application for your area below.

Alabama

Alabama Department of Industrial Relations
Telephone: 1-866-234-5382
Website: <https://dir.alabama.gov/uc/Claims/default.aspx>

Alaska

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Telephone: 1-888-252-2557
Website: http://www.labor.state.ak.us/esd_unemployment_insurance/biff-splash.htm

Arizona

Arizona Department of Economic Security
Telephone: 1-877-600-2722
Website: <https://secure.az.gov/az/des/azui/ESA/UI/InitialClaims/Index.aspx>

California

California Employment Development Department Home Page
Telephone: 1-800-300-5616
Website: <https://eapply4ui.edd.ca.gov/htm/cpgPreScreen.htm>

Arkansas

Arkansas Department of Workforce Services
Telephone: 501-907-2590
Website: <http://www.arkansas.gov/esd/ARClaimHelp/EZARC.htm>

Colorado

Colorado Department of Labor and Development
Telephone: 1-888-550-2800
Website: <https://wwws.coworkforce.com/UIIC/>

Connecticut

Connecticut Department of Labor
Telephone: 1-800-942-6633
Website: <https://ic.ctdol.state.ct.us/welcome.aspx>

District of Columbia

District of Columbia Department of Employment Services
Telephone: 202-724-7000
Website: <https://does.dcnetworks.org/InitialClaims/>

Delaware

Delaware Department of Labor
Telephone: 1-800-794-3032
Website:
<http://www.delawareworks.com/Unemployment/services/applicant.shtml>

Florida

Florida Department of Labor
Telephone: 1-800-204-2418
Website: <http://www2.myflorida.com/apps/uc/fluid/WarnMsg.asp?ClmLang=e>

Georgia

Georgia Department of Labor
Telephone: 229-430-5010
Website: <https://www.dol.state.ga.us/WS4-MW5/cics.jsp?TRANSID=BP14&FRMNAME=BP14A>

Hawaii

Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Telephone: 808-643-5555
Website: <http://hawaii.gov/labor/ui>

Idaho

Idaho Department of Labor
Telephone: 208-334-4700
Website: <http://labor.idaho.gov/IW/UIClaim/Main.asp?strMenu=FILECLAIM>

Illinois

Illinois Worknet Centers

Telephone: 1-888-367-4382

Website: <http://www.ides.state.il.us/ietc/network/index.asp>

Indiana

Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Telephone: 1-800-437-9136

Website: <http://www.in.gov/dwd/2609.htm>

Iowa

Iowa Department of Labor

Telephone: 1-877-891-5344

Website: <http://www.iowaworkforce.org/ui/file1.htm>

Kansas

Kansas Department of Labor

Telephone: 1-800-292-6333

Website: <https://www.uibenefits.dol.ks.gov/default.asp>

Kentucky

Kentucky Office of Employment and Training

Telephone: 859-547-3362

Website: <https://uiclaims.des.ky.gov/ebenefit/>

Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Labor

Telephone: 1-866-783-5567

Website: <https://laors.laworks.net/laclaims/claim/Index-Form.asp>

Maine

Maine Department of Labor

Telephone: 207-753-2800

Website: <https://portalxw.bisoex.state.me.us/mics/>

Maryland

Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Telephone: 1-800-827-4839

Website: <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/employment/ui/index.html>

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development

Telephone: 1-877-626-6800

Website: <https://ipassecurity.detma.org/ipass/loginnew.asp?ipc=3>

Michigan

Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency

Telephone: 1-866-638-3993

Website: <http://www.michigan.gov/uia/0,1607,7-118--77962--,00.html>

Minnesota

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Telephone: 1-877-898-9090

Website: https://www1.uimn.org/ui_applicant/applicant/login.do

Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Employment Security

Telephone: 1-866-844-3577

Website: <http://mdes.ms.gov/wps/portal/>

Missouri

Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

Telephone: 1-800-320-2519

Website: <https://www.ui.dolir.mo.gov/som/>

Montana

Montana Department of Labor and Industry

Telephone: 406-444-2545

Website: <https://app.mt.gov/ui4u/index>

Nebraska

Nebraska Workforce Development

Telephone: 1-877-725-9918

Website: <https://uibenefits.nwd.ne.gov/BPSWeb/jsp/BPSClaimantLogin.jsp>

Nevada

Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation

Telephone: 1-888-890-8211

Website: http://www.ui.nvdetr.org/UI_Agreement.html

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Department of Employment Security

Telephone: 1-800-266-2252

Website: <https://claims.nhes.state.nh.us/weblogic/Welcome>

New Jersey

New Jersey Department Labor and Workforce Development

Telephone: 732-761-2020

Website: <https://wnjpin.state.nj.us/cont/index.html>

New Mexico

New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions

Telephone: 505-437-9210

Website: <http://uiclaims.state.nm.us/uicclaim/html/UICHome.html>

New York

New York State Department of Labor

Telephone: 888.209.8124

Website: <https://ui.labor.state.ny.us/UBC/home.do>

North Carolina

North Carolina Employment Security Commission

Telephone: 919-707-1290

Website: <http://www.ncesc.com/individual/UI/uimain.asp>

North Dakota

North Dakota Job Service

Telephone: 1-888-263-3453

Website: <https://secure.apps.state.nd.us/jsnd/uiiaclaims/login.htm>

Ohio

Ohio Job and Family Services

Telephone: 877-644-6562

Website: <http://unemployment.ohio.gov/>

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Employment Security Commission

Telephone: 405-525-1500

Website: <https://unemployment.state.ok.us/>

Oregon

Oregon Employment Department

Telephone: 877-877-9996

Website: <https://ssl6.emp.state.or.us/ocs4/ic/ic-step1.cfm?ID=17029329&lang=E>

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry

Telephone: 717-787-5488

Website:

<http://www.dli.state.pa.us/landi/cwp/view.asp?a=152&Q=59265&landiPNavCtr=&905?>

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Telephone: 401-243-9100

Website: <https://uiclaims.state.ri.us/RI-ICS/Intro/index.aspx?AC=yes>

South Carolina

South Carolina Employment Security Commission

Telephone: 803-737-3071

Website: <http://www.sces.org/ui/claimant/index.htm>

South Dakota

South Dakota Department of Labor
Telephone: 1-800-309-4232
Website: <http://www.sd.uidclaims.com>

Tennessee

Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Telephone: 1-877-813-0950
Website: <https://www.tennesseeanytime.org/labor/ui/index.html>

Texas

Texas Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Telephone: 1-800-939-6631
Website: https://ui.labor.state.tx.us/UBC/home.do?FF_LOCALE=1

Utah

Utah Department of Workforce Services
Telephone: 1-888-848-0688
Website: <http://jobs.utah.gov/ui/WebInitialCubs/Welcome.aspx>

Vermont

Vermont Department of Labor
Telephone: 1-800-983-230
Website: <https://uipublic.labor.vermont.gov/Claimant.html>

Virginia

Virginia Employment Commission
Telephone: 1-800-782-4001
Website: <http://www.vec.virginia.gov/vecportal/unins/insur.cfm>

Washington

Washington Employment Security Department
Telephone: 1-800-318-6022
Website: <https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/uia/icintro/intropage.aspx?lang=en-us>

West Virginia

West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs

Telephone: 304-558-4686

Website: <http://www.wvuc.state.wv.us/bep>

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

Telephone: 1-800-822-5246

Website: <https://ucclaim-wi.org/InternetInitialClaims/InfoBasicRequirements.asp>

Wyoming

Wyoming Department of Employment

Telephone: 1-866-729-7799

Website: <http://wyui.doe.state.wy.us/>