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## Florida Natural Disaster Unemployment News

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As a result of Hurricane Irma, a presidential declaration of disaster was put into effect **September 10, 2017**, for the following counties: Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, DeSoto, Duval, Flagler, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Orange, Okeechobee, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St Johns, St Lucie, Sumter, and Volusia counties. Counties continue providing emergency protective measures, such as emergency operation, evacuation, sheltering and other costs associated with emergency response. This declaration provides that Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) may be available. Currently, Florida Reemployment Assistance offices are slowly recovering and many remain closed. CCC will provide additional information as it is released from the agency.

### Filing Details:

- Deadline to file October 13, 2017
- File on-line at <http://www.floridaJobs.org/>
- File by telephone at 1-800-385-3920 Customer service representatives are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time to assist claimants.
- Applications filed after the deadline will be considered untimely and DUA benefits may be denied unless the individual provides good cause. Applicants must submit their Social Security number, check stubs and documentation to support the Claim that they were working or self-employed when the disaster occurred. In some cases, additional documentation may be required. To receive DUA benefits, all required documentation must be submitted within 21 days from the date the DUA application is filed.
- DUA is available from weeks of unemployment beginning September 10, 2017 until March 17, 2018, as long as the individual's unemployment continues to be a result of the disaster.

### What is Disaster Unemployment Assistance?

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is a partnering program between the USDOL and FEMA to provide funds to state UI agencies for the payment of UI benefits under certain circumstances. It provides disaster unemployment assistance to individuals who have lost employment as the result of a major disaster and are NOT otherwise eligible for regular UI benefits.

Individuals are eligible if they lived, worked, or were scheduled to work in the affected areas and:

- No longer have a job or place to work; or
- Cannot reach the place of work; or
- Cannot work as the result of damage to the place of work; or
- Cannot work due to injury sustained in the disaster
- Became the breadwinner or major supporter of a household due to the death of head of household resulting from the disaster

DUA benefits are only payable during the Disaster Assistance Period (DAP) and shall not exceed 26 weeks. The weekly benefit amount for which the person may be eligible is determined by the governing laws in the state in which the claim was filed. Any benefits claimed under the DUA program are 100% federally funded which means employers' UI accounts will not be charged.