
Texas Natural Disaster Unemployment News

As a result of Hurricane Harvey, a presidential declaration of disaster was put into effect making Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) available. Effective **August 28, 2017**, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) announced DUA has been made available in the following 18 counties: **Aransas, Bee, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Harris, Jackson, Kleberg, Liberty, Matagorda, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Victoria, and Wharton**. Should additional counties be added, CCC will send an update to our clients.

Filing Details:

- Deadline to file September 27, 2017
- File on-line at
<http://www.twc.state.tx.us/jobseekers/unemployment-benefits-contact-information-claimants>
- File by telephone at (800) 939-6631

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. While employer non-charging is determined by each state unemployment agency, specifically natural disasters are eligible for non-charging in Texas.

Additional Information can be found at

- <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/news/hurricane-harvey-disaster-aid-available-18-texas-counties>
- <http://workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/unemployment/disaster.asp>