
North Carolina Natural Disaster Unemployment News

As a result of Hurricane Florence that took place during beginning September 7, 2018, a presidential declaration of disaster was put into effect September 15, 2018 for Beaufort, Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, and Pender counties. This declaration provides that Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) may be available. CCC will provide additional information as it is released from the agency.

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.

How Do I Know If I Am Eligible?

Individuals who are unemployed due to the disaster, and do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits.

- Self-employed individuals and small business owners who lost income due to the disaster.
- Individuals who were prevented from working due to an injury caused by the disaster.
- Individuals who have become the major supplier of household income due to the disaster-related death or injury of the previous major supplier of household income.
- Individuals who are unable to reach their jobs or self-employment locations, because they must travel through the affected area and are prevented from doing so by the disaster.
- Individuals who were to commence employment or self-employment, but were prevented from doing so by the disaster.

DUA is funded entirely by the federal government, and you must first file for regular unemployment insurance. If an individual is determined ineligible for regular unemployment insurance, or has exhausted their regular unemployment insurance benefits, a DUA claim can then be filed.

Filing Details:

- Filing deadline is October 17, 2018.
- Claims can be filed by calling the North Carolina, Division of Employment Security at (866)795-8877 from 8am to 5pm, Monday-Friday or visit <https://des.nc.gov/des>.
- DUA applies to losses beginning the week of September 9, 2018, and benefits are up to \$350 a week for up to 13 weeks.
- 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.