
Arkansas Natural Disaster Unemployment News

As a result of the recent severe storms and flooding, the president has made a Major Disaster Declaration. The declaration was made on June 8, 2019 for Conway, Crawford, Faulkner, Jefferson, Perry, Pulaski, Sebastian, and Yell counties. On June 14, 2019, Arkansas, Desha, Logan, and Pope counties were added to the declaration.

Filing Details:

- Deadline to file for Conway, Crawford, Faulkner, Jefferson, Perry, Pulaski, Sebastian, and Yell counties is July 12, 2019
- Deadline to file for Arkansas, Desha, Logan, and Pope counties is July 18, 2019
- Applicants can file in-person at their local DWS office
- Or call their local DWS office

Claimants can find their local DWS office location or phone number [here](#).

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 28 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.

What is Required to File?

DUA applicants will need their Social Security Number and the name and address of their last employer or prospective employer to file for DUA. Applicants are required to provide proof (at the time of filing or within 21 days of filing their DUA claim) that they were employed or self-employed at the time the disaster occurred or were scheduled to begin (or resume) a job or self-employment when the disaster occurred. A copy of the most recent federal income tax forms or check stubs may also be required (self-employed individuals should also provide Schedules SE and Schedule C or Schedule F.)

For more information, [click here](#) or contact Zoe Calkins – zoe.calkins@arkansas.gov