
Florida Natural Disaster Unemployment News

As a result of Hurricane Sally and its effect on Northwestern Florida from September 14th to present, the president has approved a Major Disaster Declaration. The declaration was made on September 23rd, 2020 for Bay, Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton counties.

Filing Details:

- Deadline to file is Friday, November 6th, 2020
- Individuals whose employment has been affected should file for DUA by visiting:
 - www.FloridaJobs.org
 - Call 1-800-385-3920 between the hours of 7:30AM ET to 6:30PM ET (6:30AM CT to 5:30AM CT)

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.

DUA is available to those who:

- Worked or were self-employed or were scheduled to begin work or self-employment;
- Are not able to work or perform services because of physical damage of destruction to the place of employment as a direct result of the disaster;
- Can establish that the work or self-employment they can no longer perform was their principal source of income;
- Do not qualify for regular unemployment benefits from any state;
- Cannot perform work or self-employment because of an injury as a direct result of the disaster; or
- Became the breadwinner or major supporter of a household because the former breadwinner's death occurred

DUA are available for weeks of unemployment beginning September 20th, 2020, until March 27th, 2021, as long as the individual's unemployment continues to be a direct result of the disaster. If a claimant is currently receiving state Reemployment Assistance, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance or Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation benefits, they will not be eligible for DUA.

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.

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.)