

Texas Natural Disaster Unemployment News

As a result of severe winter storms from February 11, 2021, and onward, the president has made a Major Disaster Declaration. The declaration was made on February 19, 2021 for the following counties: Angelina; Aransas; Bastrop; Bee; Bell; Bexar; Blanco; Brazoria; Brazos; Brown; Burleson; Caldwell; Calhoun; Cameron; Chambers; Collin; Comal; Comanche; Cooke; Coryell; Dallas; DeWitt; Denton; Ellis; Falls; Fort Bend; Galveston; Gillespie; Grimes; Guadalupe; Hardin; Harris; Hays; Henderson; Hidalgo; Hood; Jasper; Jefferson; Johnson; Kaufman; Kendall; Lavaca; Liberty; Madison; Matagorda; Maverick; McLennan; Montague; Montgomery; Nacogdoches; Nueces; Orange; Palo Pinto; Panola; Parker; Polk; Rockwall; Sabine; San Jacinto; San Patricio; Scurry; Shelby; Smith; Stephens; Tarrant; Travis; Tyler; Upshur; Van Zandt; Victoria; Walker; Waller; Wharton; Wichita; Williamson; Wilson; and Wise.

30 Counties were added to the Major Disaster Declaration on February 24, 2021. They are: Anderson; Austin; Bosque; Bowie; Burnet; Cherokee; Colorado; Erath; Fannin; Freestone; Gonzales; Grayson; Gregg; Hill; Houston; Hunt; Jackson; Jim Wells; Jones; Limestone; Lubbock; Medina; Milam; Navarro; Rusk; Taylor; Tom Green; Val Verde; Washington; and Wood.

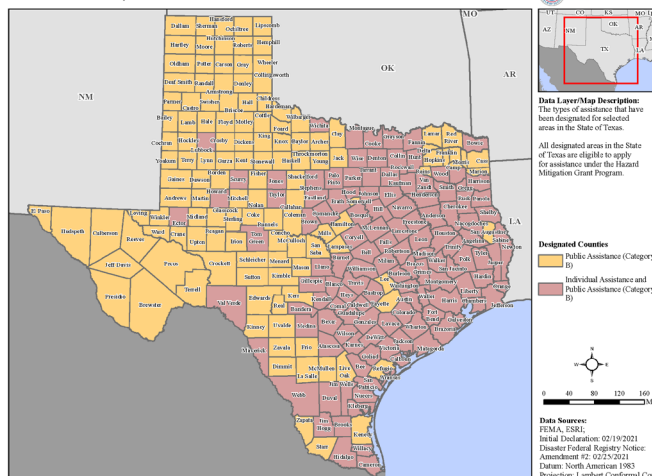
18 Counties were added to the Major Disaster Declaration on February 27, 2021. They are: Atascosa; Bandera; Brooks; Duval; Eastland; Ector; Goliad; Howard; Jim Hogg; Karnes; Kleberg; Leon; Llano; Newton; Robertson; Trinity; Webb; and Willacy.

Filing details were released on February 24, 2021.

Filing Details:

- Deadline to file is Friday, March 26, 2021
- Individuals whose employment has been affected should apply for benefits:
 - Online: [Unemployment Benefit Services](#)
 - Call: TWC Tele-Center, 7 AM CT and 7 PM CT, 7 days a week, 800-939-6631.

FEMA-4586-DR, Texas Disaster Declaration as of 02/25/2021



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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:

- Have applied for and used all regular unemployment benefits, including Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) and Extended Benefits (EB), from any state, or do not qualify for unemployment benefits
- Worked or were self-employed or were scheduled to begin work or self-employment in the disaster area
- Can no longer work or perform services because of physical damage or destruction to the place of employment as a direct result of the disaster
- Establish that the work or self-employment they can no longer perform was their primary source of income
- Cannot perform work or self-employment because of an injury as a direct result of the disaster
- Became the breadwinner or major support of a household because of the death of the head of household, or
- Were unable to reach their job or self-employment location because they must travel through the affected area and are prevented from doing so by 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.

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

FEMA Major Disaster Declaration: <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4586>

TWC DUA Announcement: <https://www.twc.texas.gov/news/disaster-unemployment-aid-now-available-individuals-affected-winter-storm-18-additional-counties>