

Pennsylvania Natural Disaster Unemployment News

As a result of the remnants of Hurricane Ida from August 31, 2021 - September 5, 2021, the president has made a Major Disaster Declaration. As of September 20, 2021, individuals in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia, and York counties are eligible to apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance.

Filing Details:

- Deadline to file is Saturday, October 30, 2021
- Pennsylvanians whose employment is impacted should file a claim online at <https://benefits.uc.pa.gov/vosnet/Default.aspx> or call toll-free number, 888-313-7284

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 eligible for DUA benefits are those who work or live in one of the federally declared counties and lost their jobs directly due to the disaster. Those eligible may also include:

- Individuals unable to reach their job because they must travel through the affected area and are unable to do so because of the disaster.
- Individuals who were to begin employment but were prevented from doing so by the disaster.
- Individuals who became the major support for a household because of the death of the head of the household as a result of the disaster.
- Individuals who cannot work because of an injury caused as a direct result of 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 either proof of employment or self-employment or wages at the time the disaster occurred, or documentation to support that the individual was to commence employment or self-employment on or after the date the major disaster began. Applicants are required to provide proof within 21 days of filing their DUA claim. Proof of employment may include, but is not limited to: check stubs, trip tickets, grain elevator receipts, written verification from the employer, invoices, or newspaper ads dated at the time of the disaster.

[Click here](#) for more information from the PA Office of Unemployment