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On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

DWD Secretary Gassman Praises Signing of Federal Legislation Extending Lifeline to Unemployed Wisconsin Workers

State to Process Retroactive Extension Payments Starting Tonight under Aggressive Timetable

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today thanked President Obama for signing into law an extension of federal Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. The extension, which President Obama signed into law this afternoon, provides a critical lifeline to unemployed Wisconsin workers.

“For Wisconsinites who are out of work through no fault of their own and receiving Unemployment Insurance, the signing of this legislation is excellent news,” Secretary Gassman said. “We thank the members of Wisconsin’s Congressional delegation who supported this legislation, as well as President Obama, for their leadership in supporting workers in Wisconsin and across the country as they get back on their feet during this challenging time for our nation’s economy.”

Secretary Gassman also released details on the processing of unemployment insurance benefits that are available retroactively to June 2, 2010, for more than 66,000 Wisconsin claimants.

Secretary Gassman said the agency’s UI Division will begin processing extension payments tonight in order to ensure that eligible claimants receive their benefits as soon as possible. In order to continue distributing regular UI benefits while also distributing retroactive “catch-up” payments, DWD will process payments using the timetable below. The order of processing of catch-up payments is designed to provide the quickest help to those who have received the fewest payments.

- Regular UI beneficiaries who had exhausted benefits: Thursday July 22 and Friday July 23
- Tier 1 payments: Friday July 23 and Saturday July 24
- Weekly payments (non catch-up): Sunday July 25
- Extended Benefit payments: Monday July 26
- Tiers 2 and 3 payments: Tuesday July 27, Wednesday July 28, and Thursday July 29
- Tier 4 payments: Friday July 30

In order to process the additional “catch-up” extension payments, DWD will redirect staff capacity from its UI call centers on Saturday, July 24, and Saturday, July 31, and the centers will be unable to receive calls during these two days. Claimants can continue to file claims online 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at www.ucclaim-wi.org.

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Claimants should expect to receive payment within 1 to 3 business days after DWD processes their checks. As early as the morning after the dates listed above, claimants can confirm their payments have been made by using the claims inquiry system at www.ucclaim-wi.org or 1-800-494-4944. Claimants can see which program (or “tier”) they are in by reviewing their most recent UI benefits statement.

About the Extension

Here are some important points about the new extension and associated payments:

- If claimants have been UI claims regularly and are still eligible for UI benefits, their benefits will be processed according to the timetable above. Those who have not been filing weekly claims but believe they are eligible for UI benefits are encouraged to file an application immediately by going to the UI website at <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/default.htm> or by calling 1-800-UC CLAIM.
- The \$25 extra payment is no longer available for those who established a new regular UI claim for benefits after May 30, due to the provisions of the new federal extension legislation. The payment remains available for individuals who established their claims before May 30, 2010.
- Claimants who are eligible for UI “catch-up” payments may receive more than one check in the next few days. That is because separate checks are required for several reasons, including a requirement that benefits from different programs (Tiers 1-4, Extended Benefits or High Extended Benefits) be paid separately.