

STATE OF WISCONSIN



Department of Workforce Development
Unemployment Insurance Division

Claiming Disaster Unemployment Assistance in Wisconsin

The Federal Disaster Relief Act of 1974, as amended by Section 410 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act permits emergency measures to help people and communities in major disaster areas. One measure is Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA).

What is DUA

The DUA program provides temporary income in the form of weekly payments to eligible workers or self-employed individuals who lost work as the result of a major disaster and who do not qualify for regular Wisconsin Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits.

The fact that you have suffered a monetary loss due to damage or destruction of property or crops does not establish entitlement to DUA. You must be able to show that the disaster prevented you from performing customary activities related to your employment or self-employment.

Definition of Major Disaster

A major disaster means any hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, earthquake, drought, ice conditions, fire, or other catastrophe declared by the President of the United States to warrant government assistance to communities and individuals. After a request from the State Governor, the President makes the declaration and defines the disaster area.

Who may be Eligible for DUA

An unemployed worker may be eligible for DUA if, as a direct result of the major disaster, such individual: (1) no longer has a job, (2) is unable to reach the place of work, (3) was to commence work and does not have a

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job or is unable to reach the job, (4) has become the breadwinner as major support for the household because the head of household died during the incident, or (5) cannot work because of a disaster-incurred injury.

A self-employed worker may be eligible when their principal income was from self-employment and if, as a direct result of the major disaster, the individual: (1) has a week of unemployment following the date the disaster began and such unemployment is a direct result of the disaster, or (2) is unable to reach the place where services as a self-employed individual are performed, or (3) was to commence regular services as a self-employed individual, or (4) cannot perform services as a self-employed individual because of injury caused by the disaster.

DUA benefits are no longer payable when a worker's unemployment is no longer directly attributed to the disaster, the self-employed individual resumes usual and customary hours of work, or the DUA period ends. Stop filing weekly claims when any of these circumstances occur.

Computing Your DUA Entitlement

Your entitlement will be based on all of your earnings from employment or self-employment during your most recently ended tax year. For most individuals this will be the previous calendar year.

DUA Weekly Benefit Rate (WBR)

Your weekly DUA benefit rate will be computed based on your statement of earnings from your employment or self-employment. You must provide proof of such earnings within 21 days of filing your claim. The gross DUA benefit rates will not be lower than 50% of the average payment for a full week of regular UI benefits and not to exceed the current maximum UI weekly benefit rate.

When to Apply for DUA Benefits

If a disaster is declared, DWD will announce to local news media the DUA Application Period as well as how to file a claim. When announced, the DUA application period is set by federal regulation for 30 days.

You are not eligible for DUA if you qualify for regular UI benefits

How To Apply for DUA Benefits

Apply online at my.unemployment.wisconsin.gov. Choose link "If you want to apply for DUA, click here" then check the box indicating you want to apply for DUA. For help using online services or if you are unable to go online call the DUA hotline at (608) 318-7100 during business hours. A claims specialist will help you complete your initial claim application.

Have the following information available:

- Social Security Number
- Wisconsin Driver's License, if you have one
- A list of all employers you worked for in the past 18 months, their complete addresses (including zip codes), telephone numbers and the dates you began and last worked for them.
- A payroll check stub or most recent earnings and leave statement.

Filing a Weekly Claim Certification

You must file a weekly claim for a week to receive benefits for that week.

File your weekly claims online at my.unemployment.wisconsin.gov. For help using online services or if you are truly unable to go online call the DUA hotline number at (608) 318-7100 during business hours.

If you are **self-employed**, complete your paper weekly claim for each week for which you wish to receive DUA. Mail the weekly claim form in after the week is over. You have 14 days after the week is over to submit the form timely.

See "Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) Rights and Responsibilities" (DUA-16353-P) for more complete information and appeal rights.

WISCONSIN UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

HOURS OF OPERATION

Online Services and Contact Information

ONLINE FILING IS REQUIRED

For more information about online services go to: dwd.wi.gov/ClaimsOnline

Apply Online

For a New Claim or to Reopen an Existing Claim

Steps To Apply Online:

1. Type into the internet browser: my.unemployment.wisconsin.gov
2. Read and accept Terms and Conditions
3. Create a username and password
4. Logon to access online benefit services
5. Complete your application

Apply Online During These Times:

Sunday	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Monday – Friday	6:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Saturday	9:00 AM – 2:30 PM

File Weekly Claim

For Benefit Payment

Steps To File Weekly Claim Online:

1. Type into the internet browser: my.unemployment.wisconsin.gov
2. Logon to access online benefit services
3. File your weekly claim

File Weekly Claim Online During These Times:

Sunday	9:00 AM – Midnight
Monday – Friday	1:00 AM – Midnight
Saturday	1:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Get Information

About your Benefit Account

Go Online Today:

1. Type into the internet browser: my.unemployment.wisconsin.gov
2. Logon to receive quick access to:
 - your claim information
 - expanded online features and tools

Online Systems for Information are Available:

Sunday	9:00 AM – Midnight
Monday – Friday	1:00 AM – Midnight
Saturday	1:00 AM – 3:00 PM

For help using online services or if you are truly unable to go online call 414-435-7069 during business hours:

Monday – Friday 7:45 AM – 4:30 PM

Callers may be asked to call back on a specific day of the week.

Report Unemployment Fraud

Go Online Today: dwd.wi.gov/ui/fraud/report.htm

Or contact a fraud specialist on the UI Fraud Hotline: 1-800-909-9472 during business hours:

Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

DWD is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need assistance with this information, please dial 7-1-1 for Wisconsin Relay Service. Please contact the Unemployment Insurance Division at 414-435-7069 to request information in an alternate format, including translated to another language.