



Unemployment Resources

About Unemployment Resources

Unemployment benefits work on an **insurance system**. This means that employers and employees both contribute to a common insurance fund. The most common reasons for not filing for benefits include: not being eligible, being unaware of how to file for benefits, and administrative errors made in the filing process, as well as stigma regarding unemployment benefits.

Eligibility & Claims

Eligibility Requirements

To file for unemployment insurance, the following requirements must be met:

- Past earnings must meet minimum threshold of \$1,300 in 1 quarter of your base period year (1 base period = one 3-month quarter of 12-month period of a time).
- Must be unemployed through no fault of your own, as defined by California law.
- Must be able, available, and actively seeking work.

Due to COVID-19, some requirements have been relaxed.

1. You don't have to serve the 1-week unpaid waiting period before getting paid benefits.
2. You are not required to look for work each week to be eligible for benefits during the coronavirus outbreak until further notice.

Upon qualification, the next steps are as follows.

- 1. File for a claim, using one of three methods.**
Online: Register using the following site: https://www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/UI_Online.htm
**You can't file a claim on most days between 8 PM - 4 AM
Phone: Available Mon - Fri 8 AM - 12 PM via [1-800-300-5616](tel:1-800-300-5616) for English speakers and [1-800-326-8937](tel:1-800-326-8937) for Spanish speakers. For other languages, please visit their website.
Fax or Mail: Paper applications can be found here: https://www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/Filing_a_Claim.htm
- 2. The Claims Process**
After filing for a claim, the following will occur.
Claim Filed: After applying, you will receive a Notice of Unemployment Insurance Claim Filed statement by mail. Check this notice for errors and report any of them to the EDD within 10 days.
Phone Interview: If the department needs more information, they will schedule a phone interview.
- 3. Await Response**
If Found Eligible for Benefits: You will receive several documents including an EDD account number and a Continued Claim form (very important). You can receive benefit payments via: (1) EDD Debit Card through Bank of America or (2) by check. It takes minimum three weeks to process a claim and issue payments.
If Found Ineligible for Benefits: You will be mailed a document with a reason. The 2nd-3rd paragraph will explain why you were found ineligible.



4. Certify for Continued Benefits

To keep receiving benefits, you must “certify” by providing the EDD eligibility information every two weeks. This can be filled out through UI Online’s website or app or through the mail with the aforementioned Continued Claim form.

Additional Resources

<https://www.edd.ca.gov/unemployment/ui-calculator.htm> is a useful EDD calculator to estimate how much benefits you will receive.

eligibility.com/unemployment/california has more information on CA benefits & eligibility.

edd.ca.gov/disability explains the California State Disability Insurance (SDI) program.

usa.gov/help-with-bills#item-214633 contains directory of links that discuss the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Job Search Resources

American Job Centers (AJCs)

American Job Centers provide free help to help people search for jobs, find training, and answer other employment related questions. For more information, visit careeronestop.org

Adult Dislocated Worker Program

The Adult Dislocated Worker Program assists individuals who have been laid off, or who are scheduled to be laid off and need transition assistance to find a new job. Contact: [1-877-872-5627](tel:1-877-872-5627)

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

The Senior Community Service Employment Program provides part-time training positions to low-income persons age 55+. Participants are paid at least the Federal minimum wage. For more, visit dol.gov/agencies/eta/seniors/

Visit benefits.gov to see what additional resources you may be eligible for.

High School Diploma/Equivalency

Los Angeles Public Library offers a Career Online High School program free for adults who live or work in Los Angeles (lapl.org/diploma). Alternatively, an in-person GED test grants high school equivalency.

Vocational Schooling

Employment rates for individuals that attend vocational school are higher than for those who only have a diploma. Vocational schooling costs less than a college degree and allows individuals to gain special skills in a field, increasing the possibility of a leadership position in the future.

Higher Education

For those aiming for a field that requires a college degree, start by considering community college and become aware of as many scholarship opportunities as possible.

Unemployment and COVID-19

COVID-19 Unemployment Insurance Relief (CARES)

The CARES Act, which was signed into law in March 2020, gives individual states more power and flexibility to grant unemployment benefits. Visit dol.gov/coronavirus for more information.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance is a California statewide program which targets assistance for unemployed or employed California residents that previously did not qualify for unemployment insurance, and who have had financial losses directly due to the pandemic. Note that this program is restricted to individuals authorized to work in the United States. Visit edd.ca.gov for more information.

Mental Health

Unemployment increases an individuals' risk of suffering from a mental illness. If you feel that you need mental health guidance:

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Benefits: for individuals with disabilities who have mental health conditions.

SAMHSA’s National Helpline, 1-800-662-HELP (4357): a confidential, free, 24/7 information service providing local referrals to local support.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-8255: 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals.