

Disaster Unemployment Assistance

WHAT ARE DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS?

The President can authorize disaster unemployment insurance benefits as part of the relief available in the disaster declaration. Disaster unemployment insurance benefits are unemployment benefits available to those who are not able to return to work due to the disaster. This program covers more people (such as self-employed persons, farmers, etc.) than traditional unemployment.

HOW IS ELIGIBILITY DETERMINED?

To qualify for the assistance, your job must have been lost or interrupted as a result of a Presidentially declared disaster and you must not be eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits. Both of these conditions must be met to qualify. Applicants must not be able to return to work for one of the following reasons:

- No longer have a job or place to work.
- Can't reach your job site.
- Can't work because of damage to the job site.
- Were about to start a new job but, due to the disaster, the job no longer exists.
- Can't work because of an injury caused by the disaster.
- Became the major support for a household because the head of household died due to the disaster.

YOU MUST BE AVAILABLE AND ABLE TO WORK, UNLESS YOU MEET ONE OF THESE TWO CONDITIONS:

- You have an injury caused by the disaster, or
- You are taking steps to return to self-employment.

HOW DO I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION?

All individuals must file an unemployment insurance claim at <https://oklahoma.gov/oesc/individuals>. For more information or questions, individuals can call the Unemployment Service Center at **405-525-1500** or visit one of OESC's field offices. Standard Unemployment Assistance must be filed for before Disaster Unemployment Assistance.

HOW DO I RECEIVE DUA?

In order to receive Disaster Unemployment Assistance, all required documentation must be received within 21 days of the DUA application filing date. Required documentation includes the individual's social security number, proof of earnings, a current check stub, and proof of employment.

How do I send in the documents?

- By email to dua@oesc.ok.gov
- By fax to **405-962-7524** * You must have a cover letter addressed to DUA.
- By mail to:

ATTN: DUA Desk
OESC
P.O. Box 52006
Oklahoma City, OK, 73152-2006

WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE DECISION OF THE APPLICATION AND WANT TO APPEAL?

If you disagree with the initial fact-finding decision, you have a right to file a written request for a hearing in front of an administrative law judge within ten days of the date of the fact-finding decision. You can appeal a decision of the administrative law judge to the Employment Appeal Board by filing a written request within 10 days of the date of the administrative law judge's decision. You can either request a rehearing with the Employment Appeal Board by filing a written request within twenty days of the Employment Appeal Board decision or by filing a petition for judicial review with the Oklahoma District Court within 30 days of the Employment Appeal Board's decision.



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