

Disaster Unemployment Assistance FAQs

Administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity



What is Disaster Unemployment Assistance?

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) provides assistance to individuals whose employment has been either lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster, as declared by the President of the United States.

Who is eligible for DUA?

DUA is available to unemployed workers or self-employed individuals who became unemployed as a direct result of the disaster. DUA is also available to those individuals who became the breadwinner, or major support provider, due to the death of the head of household and as a direct result of the disaster.

How do I file a claim?

Claims can be filed online at www.floridajobs.org or by calling 1-800-385-3920. Proof of employment at the time of the disaster is required within 21 days of filing the DUA application. Instructions will be provided as to where to fax or mail this required documentation. Your personal income tax return (Federal Form 1040 and attachments) or other proof of employment (e.g. 1099) and wages you earned in calendar year 2016 may also be requested.

What should I keep in mind when filing a DUA claim?

Regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits supersede DUA. Any person determined eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits, even in the case of a disaster, would not be eligible for DUA benefits. You must report all earnings weekly. If you are paid by your employer during your absence from work or if you return to work, you must report these earnings on your weekly request for payment. Vacation pay must also be reported on your weekly request for payment.

How many weeks can I receive?

Individuals eligible for DUA will be paid weekly benefits in accordance with federal and state regulations. The DUA benefit duration is determined weekly up to 27 weeks.

How long will it take before I receive my benefits?

DUA benefits are paid once proof of employment and wages are received and verified and it is determined that unemployment was a direct result of the disaster. Benefits can be held up to 21 days until all required documentation is received. Each claim must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. DEO's goal is to ensure a determination is made as quickly as possible.