

## Eligibility for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) Due to Effects of Hurricane Irene

*Have you lost work or income due to the effects of Hurricane Irene on. If so, you may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA).*

### What is DUA?

DUA is a Federal program that provides payments to people in a Federally-declared disaster area who have lost work or income due to the disaster. The NYS Department of Labor determines if claims filed under the program are valid, and makes payments to those who qualify. The Federal government funds the DUA program. President Obama declared several counties in New York major disaster areas at Governor Cuomo's request.

### Who is eligible?

If you live or work in Albany, Clinton, Delaware, Dutchess, Essex, Greene, Montgomery, Nassau, Orange, Otsego, Rensselaer, Rockland, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster, Warren and Westchester counties; and you lost your job or income due to the effects of Hurricane Irene, you may qualify for DUA. There are different eligibility requirements for DUA than regular unemployment insurance. You may qualify even if you are self-employed, and even if you do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance.

Some situations that qualify for DUA include:

- You were injured in the disaster and are unable to work, whether you are an employee or self-employed.
- Your workplace was damaged, destroyed, or you can't get there because of the disaster.
- Your transportation to work is not available because of the disaster.
- You must travel to your job through the affected area, and you cannot do that because of the disaster.

- You were about to begin work, but could not because of the disaster.
- You are now the breadwinner or major support for a household because the former head of household died in the disaster.
- You are out of work because the Federal government took over or closed the facility where you worked.
- Most of your income comes from areas affected by the disaster, whether you worked for yourself or for an employer, and your business is down as a direct result of the disaster.

### How do I apply for DUA?

First, file for regular unemployment insurance by calling the NYS Department of Labor at 1-888-209-8124, or 1-877-358-5306 (if you live out of state). Answer the questions to indicate that you lost your job as a direct result of the effects of Hurricane Irene.

File your application with the NYS Department of Labor as soon as possible. APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 3, 2011.

When you file for unemployment insurance benefits, you should have the following information ready and available:

- Your Social Security number,
- Your NYS driver's license or Motor Vehicle ID card number, if you have one,
- Your mailing address and zip code,
- A telephone number where you can be reached for additional information,
- Your alien registration card number, if you have one, and

The names and addresses of all employers you worked for within the 18 months prior to August 29, 2011, including any in another state.

If you can collect regular unemployment insurance benefits, you cannot receive DUA payments.

### **Is there anything else I should know?**

If you qualify, benefits are payable from August 29, 2011 through March 4, 2012. You must continue to be unemployed as a direct result of the disaster to continue receiving DUA.

### **Where can I go for more information?**

For questions about your claim, call our Telephone Claim Center at 1-888-209-8124 (from within New York State) or 1-877-358-5306 (from outside New York State).

For help in finding another job, visit your local Department of Labor One-Stop Career Center. There is at least one in each county in the state. Our One-Stop Centers can provide career counseling, and help you:

- Look for a job
- Investigate training options
- Prepare a resume
- Improve your interviewing skills
- Find information about the local job market

To find your local One-Stop Career Center, call 1-888-4-NYSDOL or (518) 457-9000. Or visit our website at <http://www.labor.ny.gov/workforcenypartners/os-view.asp>.

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