

As U.S. Congressional leaders are unable to agree on a budget, the federal government was shut down effective midnight on December 22, 2018.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WORKING IN WEST VIRGINIA Will file their claims on-line at uc.workforcewv.org

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WORKING IN OTHER STATES should contact the state in which employment was last performed to obtain information for filing a claim. If you did not work in West Virginia, the claim cannot be filed here.

EMPLOYEES WORKING FOR A FEDERAL CONTRACTOR who are affected by the Federal Shutdown, can file a claim for unemployment on-line at uc.workforcewv.org

Filing for unemployment benefits during the shutdown is a personal choice, however, If you file and later receive back pay for the hours worked during the shutdown, you will be required to repay any unemployment benefits you received.

Questions & Answers for Federal Employees Furloughed

Q: How do I file for unemployment benefits?

A: You must file online at workforcewv.org.

Q: Do I have to serve a waiting week?

A: Yes. The first week you are eligible for benefits on a claim is a mandatory unpaid waiting period.

Q: How long will it take for me to receive benefits?

A: Applications will be processed as soon as possible. There may be some delays due to wages not being immediately available due to the shutdown.

Q: What documentation will I need?

A: You will need to submit a Notification of Personnel Action (SF50), or a Notice to Federal Employee About Unemployment Insurance (SF8). In order to expedite your claim process, please upload check stubs when filing the Initial claim in case the agency cannot obtain wage information.

Q: Do I have to search for a job while furloughed?

A: Federal employees who are separated as a result of the partial government shutdown are considered job-attached and will not be required to conduct a job search during the furlough.

Q: What if I am working some hours but not getting paid?

A: If you are working but not getting paid, you need to report hours and earnings during this time, for each week you file for benefits.

Q: What happens if I receive back pay after the shutdown has ended?

A: If Congress reaches an agreement that includes back pay for furloughed time, federal workers will be responsible for paying back any unemployment benefits received during that time. If you have already requested payment of unemployment benefits and you then receive payment from your government job you must provide detailed information about the compensation you received, including dates and gross amounts.