

# What is Disaster Unemployment Assistance?

# Disaster Unemployment Assistance

# Disaster Unemployment Assistance



relief

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) provides financial and reemployment assistance to individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster and who are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits.

[www.workforcewv.gov](http://www.workforcewv.gov)



January 2024



# Qualifying for DUA

# Eligibility Requirements

# Applying for DUA

## help

**One** of the following conditions of unemployment must have occurred as a direct result of the disaster in order to qualify for DUA benefits: Please note, a direct result of a major disaster means an immediate result of the disaster itself, not the result of a longer chain of events caused or worsened by the disaster.

- The individual is unable to reach their job because they must travel through the affected area and are unable to do so because of the disaster.
- The individual was to begin employment but was prevented from doing so by the disaster.
- The individual became the major support for a household because of the death of the head of the household as a result of the disaster.
- The individual cannot work because of an injury caused as a direct result of the disaster.
- The individual is unable to work because the disaster caused such widespread economic distress to an industry that there is a limited amount of work available.

Individuals who meet one of the qualifying conditions must also meet **all** of the following eligibility requirements to be eligible for DUA:

- The individual must be legally authorized to work in the United States.
- The individual must not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits in any state.
- The individual must be able to work full-time and be available to work full-time, unless injured as a direct result of the disaster.
- The individual must be actively seeking full-time work.
- The individual has not refused an offer or referral of suitable work.
- The individual must have filed an application for DUA within thirty (30) days of the date of the public announcement of DUA.
- The individual must provide WorkForce WV with proof of employment/wages earned in the calendar year prior to the disaster within twenty-one (21) days of applying for DUA.

## hope

WorkForce WV must determine if you are eligible for regular unemployment benefits before you can apply for DUA benefits. Go to [uc.workforcewv.org](https://uc.workforcewv.org) to file for regular unemployment and complete the on-line application for a new claim. If there is potential that you will be ineligible for regular unemployment benefits, you will be asked to complete an application for DUA benefits.

Please Note: DUA benefits are not the same as help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). You must apply separately for FEMA assistance by going to [www.fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov).

For more information on DUA benefits, please email us at [ucpolicy@wv.gov](mailto:ucpolicy@wv.gov).

