

DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (DUA)

What Is the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) Program?

DUA is a federal program that provides temporary payments to people in a federally declared disaster area whose employment or income has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of the disaster and are otherwise not eligible to receive regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits.

Who's Eligible for DUA?

To be eligible for DUA, an individual **CANNOT** be eligible for regular UI benefits and must meet one of the following conditions as a direct result of a major disaster as declared by the President of the United States:

1. Live or work in a county declared as a disaster area eligible for **INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE** by the President. Check to see if your county is included at www.fema.gov/Disasters, click on NC Hurricane Matthew and then on 'Designated Areas' located on the left side of the screen. You can also find this information on our website at des.nc.gov.
2. Be unemployed or unable to reach your place of employment.
3. Be scheduled to start work and unable to reach the job.
4. Become the bread-winner or major support of your family because of disaster-related death of the head of household.
5. Be self-employed or a business owner who lost income.
6. Cannot work because of injury directly caused by the declared disaster.

DUA is not meant to be a 100% income replacement. A monetary determination will be mailed to you detailing your entitlement. Eligible individuals may receive up to \$350.00 in weekly benefits for the duration of the declared event. All DUA payments are made on paper checks so you must be certain to provide your most recent address.

How Do I Apply for Benefits?

First, you **MUST** apply for Regular UI benefits.

1. File a UI claim for benefits online at des.nc.gov. Online filing is the fastest and easiest way to file a claim. If you cannot file online, call 888-737-0259. If filing as result of the disaster, you will not be required to search for work.
2. Complete a certification each week online at des.nc.gov, or by phone 888-372-3453.
3. Complete the Application for Waiting Period Week Not Enforced form and return to DES. Visit our website at des.nc.gov to access the form, located in the "Downloads" section under the DUA tab.

If you are notified that you are ineligible for regular UI benefits **OR** have exhausted your regular UI benefits and are still unemployed as a result of the declared disaster; see below.

Apply for DUA Benefits?

1. Call the DUA Hotline at 866-795-8877 to file your claim. A packet will be sent to you to confirm that your claim has been processed, explain your benefit rights, and describe your next steps.
2. If you are self-employed or a business owner, you will be asked to provide proof of earnings (i.e. recent Federal Income Tax returns and/or your profit and loss statement).

An initial application for DUA must be filed within 30 days after the Division of Employment Security (DES) announces availability of DUA benefits in your affected county.