

Shortly after your claim is filed, you will receive an application packet in the mail, including forms that must be completed and returned along with your 2007 federal income-tax return or other substantial evidence of earnings information (e.g., a W-2 for your employer). You will be required to furnish the requested information within 21 days of the date you filed your claim. Failure to provide the required documentation results in cancellation of the DUA claim. If that happens, you must pay back any benefits paid.

The information you provide for the purpose of determining your eligibility and benefit amount is subject to verification.

Appeal Rights

You have the right to appeal any determination made on your DUA claim. Your appeal must be filed within 60 days of the date of the determination and will be heard by an appeals hearing officer. The decision of the hearing officer may be further appealed to the Regional Administrator, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, and to the Assistant Secretary of Employment and Training. Details on these further appeal rights are explained on each decision.

For More Information

You may contact Colorado's UI Operations, Benefits Customer Service, for more detailed information about DUA programs that may be available. The information contained in this pamphlet is general in nature and should not be construed as being the law.

What You Should Know About Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)

**For the Severe Storms and Tornadoes
Beginning May 22, 2008, in Larimer and
Weld Counties**



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
Unemployment Insurance Operations
P.O. Box 400, Denver, CO 80201-0400

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Donald J. Mares
Executive Director

Purpose of the Program

The purpose of the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) Program is to provide temporary income to individuals whose employment has been lost or interrupted as the direct result of a major disaster. You must be able to demonstrate that **the disaster** prevented you from performing customary activities related to your employment.

The fact that you may have suffered a monetary loss due to damage or destruction of property or crops as a result of the disaster does not establish entitlement to DUA.

Who Runs the Program?

The U.S. Department of Labor administers DUA using the state unemployment insurance (UI) programs to process claims and pay benefits. DUA benefits are federally appropriated and are not funded by the employer taxes that are used to finance regular benefits that are paid through the UI program.

Who Is Eligible for DUA?

Payment of DUA is made to workers and self-employed individuals, including U.S. citizens and legal aliens, who are unable to work as a direct result of the disaster and who do not qualify for regular UI-program benefits in any state in which he or she worked.

You may be eligible if, as a direct result of the disaster, you:

- Can no longer work or perform services.
- Worked or were self-employed in or were scheduled to begin work or self-employment in a federally-declared disaster area.
- Establish that the work or self-employment that you can no longer perform was your primary source of income.
- Cannot perform work or self-employment because of an injury or because you were incapacitated.
- Became the breadwinner or major support of a household because of the death of the head of the household.

DUA Benefit Payment Amounts – How Much?

DUA benefit amounts are based on the individual's 2007 earnings and currently range from \$164 to \$455 per week. A copy of your 2007 federal income-tax return or other substantial evidence of earnings is required.

Weekly DUA payments may be reduced by receipt of other income, such as wages earned for services performed and sale of products, livestock, or crops.

How Long Will Payments Last?

Payments are made for weeks within the specified disaster period in which you suffered a loss or substantial reduction of employment or self-employment (that was a direct result of the disaster). Normally, a disaster period of 26 weeks is declared. If you are able to return to work or self-employment during the disaster period, you will no longer be eligible for benefit payments.

How Is a DUA Claim Filed?

Applications for DUA are filed with Colorado's UI Operations, Benefits Customer Service, within 30 days following the date the program is publicly announced. All applications must be received by June 27, 2008.

To file a claim with a customer-service representative, call:

303-318-9000 (Denver-metro area)

-or-

1-800-388-5515 (outside Denver-metro area)

Press Option 5.