

## **Disaster Unemployment Assistance**

### **Purpose**

Disaster Unemployment Assistance provides financial assistance to individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster declared by the President of the United States. Before an individual can be determined eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance, it must be established that the individual is not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits (either State or Federal benefits). The program is administered by States as agents of the Federal government.

### **Eligibility**

Disaster Unemployment Assistance is available to unemployed U.S. nationals and qualified aliens who worked or were self-employed if they:

- worked or were self-employed in or were scheduled to begin work or self-employment in an area declared as a Federal disaster area.

- can no longer work or perform services as a direct result of a disaster.

- establish that the work or self-employment they can no longer perform was their primary source of income.

- do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits from any State.

- can not perform work or self-employment because of an injury or because they were incapacitated as a direct result of the disaster.

- became the breadwinner or major support of a household because of the death of the head of the household.

Suffering a monetary loss due to damage of property or crops does not automatically entitle an individual to Disaster Unemployment Assistance.

### **Benefits**

Disaster Unemployment Assistance is available to individuals for weeks of unemployment beginning after the date the major disaster began and for up to 26 weeks after the major disaster was declared by the President, as long as their unemployment continues to be a result of the major disaster.

The maximum weekly benefit amount is determined under the provisions of the State law for unemployment insurance in the State where the disaster occurred.

### **Filing a Claim**

Claims should be filed in accordance with the State's instructions published in announcements about the availability of Disaster Unemployment Assistance, or contact the State Unemployment Insurance agency (<http://ows.doleta.gov/map.asp>).

For more information on Disaster Unemployment Assistance related to the New York World Trade Center Disaster Check <http://ows.doleta.gov/unemploy/duany.asp>