

## **Update on the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Program (EUC)**

In July 2008, Public Law 110-252 enacted a new temporary unemployment benefit, the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC08) program. The American Jobs Act restored the federal emergency unemployment compensation (EUC) program until November 2010 for eligible individuals who were unemployed for six months and exhausted their state unemployment benefits. EUC provides up to a total of 99 weeks of federal unemployment compensation if a State's unemployment rate is equal to or greater than 8.5%. This extension did not provide more benefit weeks for individuals who have already collected the maximum 99 weeks of EUC. The American Jobs Act also extended the 100% federal funding of the Extended Benefits (EB) program through November 2010.

The American Jobs Act eliminated the penalty for EUC beneficiaries who worked part-time or short-term jobs and had their benefit amount reduced has been eliminated with this legislation. Senator Lieberman has been a strong supporter of fixing the provisions that created disincentives for the unemployed to find work opportunities and was the first Member of Congress to raise this issue in either chamber.

Most recently, P.L. 111-312 extends the authorization of the EUC08 program (tier I) but does not change the structure of the program or augment benefits. This temporary unemployment insurance program provides up to 20 additional weeks of unemployment benefits to certain workers who have exhausted their rights to regular unemployment compensation (UC) benefits.

A second tier of benefits provides up to an additional 14 weeks of benefits (for a total of up to 34 weeks of EUC08 benefits for all unemployed workers). A third tier is available in states with a total unemployment rate of at least 6% and provides up to an additional 13 weeks of EUC08 benefits (for a total of up to 47 weeks of EUC08 benefits in certain states). A fourth tier is available in states with a total unemployment rate of at least 8.5% and provides up to an additional six weeks of EUC08 benefits (for a total of up to 53 weeks of EUC08 benefits in certain states).

**All tiers of EUC08 benefits are temporary and expire the week ending on or before January 3, 2012.** Those beneficiaries receiving tier I, II, III, or IV of EUC08 benefits before December 31, 2011 are "grandfathered" for their remaining weeks of eligibility for that particular tier only. There will be no new entrants into any tier of the EUC08 program after December 31, 2011. If an individual is eligible to continue to receive his or her remaining EUC08 benefit tier after December 31, 2011, that individual would not be entitled to tier II benefits once those tier I benefits were exhausted. No EUC08 benefits—regardless of tier—are payable for any week after June 9, 2012.

The Connecticut Department of Labor administers all EUC and state unemployment benefits for Connecticut residents and can provide specific eligibility information for claimants. Individuals must contact the Connecticut Department of Labor to begin an unemployment claim by calling the TeleBenefits line toll-free at 1-800-942-6653 or by visiting the Department of Labor's website at [www.ct.gov/dol](http://www.ct.gov/dol)