

# NEWS

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## HURRICANE SANDY DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (DUA)

President Obama issued major disaster declarations for Connecticut, New Jersey and New York on October 30, 2012, in response to Hurricane Sandy. These declarations provide for individual assistance, which includes Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA).

DUA 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 and who are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits.

Individuals, including self-employed individuals, who were living or working in the affected areas at the time of the major disaster, and are unemployed as a result of Hurricane Sandy, may be eligible for DUA. In addition, those who are unable to reach their job, because the disaster prevented their travel, or who were scheduled to begin employment, but the disaster prevented them from doing so, may apply.

DUA 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 application period for filing initial DUA claims related to Hurricane Sandy has been extended until February 4, 2013.*

**Impacted individuals may contact the state workforce agencies in Connecticut, New Jersey and New York as indicated below:**

**New York** - Claims may be filed by calling the Telephone Claims Center (TCC) at 1-888-209-8124, or, if you live out of state, call 1-877-358-5306. Applicants must answer the questions to indicate whether they lost their job due to Hurricane Sandy. Individuals may access additional information about UI and DUA at [http://www.labor.ny.gov/ui/ui\\_index.shtm](http://www.labor.ny.gov/ui/ui_index.shtm)

**New Jersey** – To file a claim, individuals should first file for unemployment insurance benefits through the internet by going to [www.njuifile.net](http://www.njuifile.net). The internet process is faster and convenient. However, if needed, individuals may also file a claim by telephone by contacting the Department of Labor's Re-employment Centers at:

North Jersey (201) 601-4100  
Central Jersey (732) 761-2020  
South Jersey (856) 507-2340

**Connecticut** – To file a claim, individuals should contact their local TeleBenefits line. To locate your local TeleBenefits number, check the blue pages of your telephone directory. Individuals may also visit the Connecticut Labor Department's website at [www.ct.gov/dol](http://www.ct.gov/dol), or contact Infoline at 2-1-1.

Individuals may also obtain information by calling the Department of Labor's toll-free number at 1-877-US-2JOBS (1-877-872-5627) and office locations may also be obtained from America's Service Locator Website at [www.servicelocator.org](http://www.servicelocator.org). Additional information on other federal and state administered benefit programs can be obtained at [www.benefits.gov](http://www.benefits.gov) or at the [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).