Department of Workforce Development
Unemployment Insurance Division
Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) Program
P.O. Box 7905
Madison, WI 53707

DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE
Section 410 & 423 of the Robert T Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988

DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (DUA) RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is available if your employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster. Direct result means an immediate result of the major disaster itself, and not the result of a longer chain of events caused or worsened by the disaster.

You are not eligible for DUA if you qualify for regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits.

The President of the United States must declare a major disaster in the state, define the affected areas, and authorize payments under the DUA program. Announcements will be made in the news media in the disaster area advising that DUA is available and how and when you must file for benefits.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for DUA, you must meet all the following eligibility requirements:

1. You are not eligible for regular UI benefits from any state; and
2. You are able and available for work, unless injured as a direct result of the disaster; and
3. You are a U.S. citizen, a U.S. national, or authorized to work in the U.S. (qualified alien); and
4. You apply for DUA by Aug. 31, 2026; and
5. You are unemployed or self-unemployed as a direct result of the disaster; and
    - Your affected work or self-employment was in Bayfield, Brown, Buffalo, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Manitowoc, Marathon, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Racine, Rock, Sauk, Vernon, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, and Winnebago Counties or the Oneida Nation; and
    - Your primary source of income was the work affected by the disaster.

In addition to individuals who lost their jobs directly due to the disaster, individuals eligible for DUA may also include those who:

- Can no longer work or perform services because of physical damage or destruction to their place of employment as a direct result of the disaster or because they cannot reach their job or self-employment location because they cannot travel through the affected area due to the disaster; or
- Were to start work or self-employment but were not able to because of the disaster; or
- Cannot work or perform services, including self-employment, because of an injury caused as a direct result of the disaster; or
- Became the primary household earner (breadwinner or major support of a household) because of the death of the head of the household because of the disaster; or
- Cannot work or perform services, including self-employment, due to the closure of a facility by the federal, state, or local government due to the disaster; or
- Lost work or revenue if their employer or self-employed business received a majority of its revenue or income from an entity damaged, destroyed, or closed because of the disaster.

PROOF OF EMPLOYMENT

Proof of employment and/or self-employment is required. You have 21 calendar days from the date you file your application for DUA to meet this requirement. Failure to provide adequate proof of employment/self-employment will result in your being ineligible for DUA. Acceptable proof of self-employment or wages may include the previous year's tax returns, financial statement, pay checks, and stubs.

WEEKLY BENEFIT RATE

Your weekly benefit rate will be based on your gross wages. If you are self-employed, your weekly benefit rate will be based on your net earnings from self-employment. If your earnings qualify you for less than one-half of the state average UI weekly benefit rate (WBR), your WBR may be increased to one-half of the state average WBR. The minimum WBR payable is $174, but the weekly amount may be reduced if your employment or self-employment was less than full time.

DURATION OF BENEFITS

The disaster assistance period begins April 19, 2026 and ends Jan. 2, 2027. Your eligibility will be determined on a week-to-week basis. For each week you submit a DUA claim, your reason for being unemployed must be as a direct result of the disaster. DUA benefits may not be paid for any week of unemployment that is more than 26 weeks after the declaration date of the disaster.

REDUCTIONS IN DUA WEEKLY BENEFITS
DUA benefits may be reduced or denied if you begin to receive one or more of the following:

- Earnings/income from employment or self-employment.
- Benefits or insurance for loss of wages due to illness or disability.
- Supplemental unemployment benefits paid pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement.
- Private income protection insurance.
- Worker's compensation or survivor's benefits if you become the major support of a family as a result of the death of the head of the household.
- Retirement, pension, or annuity.
- Subsidy/price support payments, crop insurance, and farm disaster payments provided services were performed.

TAX WITHHOLDING
You may have federal (10%) and/or state (5%) taxes withheld from your DUA payments.

WEEKLY CLAIMS
You are required to file weekly benefit claims for each week you wish to file for DUA. For help using online services or if you are unable to go online, call the DUA hotline at (608) 318-7100 during business hours.

If you are self-employed, you must file a paper weekly claim for DUA benefits. Completed weekly claims must be faxed to (608) 327-6171 or mailed to DUA, P.O. Box 7905, Madison, WI 53707.

You must submit your weekly claim certification by the Saturday that is 14 days after the end of each week you are claiming or within 14 days of the date we mail you the DUA Weekly Claim (Form DUA-3), whichever is later.

You must report gross wages earned for any employment. Report your wages as earned from employment even if not yet paid. If you are self-employed, you must report gross income in the week in which you receive the pay even though you may have performed service in a prior week or before the disaster began. Self-employed farmers must also report subsidy/price support payments, crop insurance and farm disaster relief (non-DUA) payments.

DISQUALIFICATION/TERMINATION OF DUA BENEFITS
Your DUA benefits may be terminated, for the following reasons:

- You become employed and earnings exceed the weekly benefit amount allowed.
- You become eligible for regular UI benefits.
- You refuse an offer of suitable employment without good cause.
- You are not able and available for work, unless injured as a direct result of the disaster.
- Your unemployment is no longer a direct result of the disaster.

OVERPAYMENTS
There is no provision for a waiver of overpaid DUA benefits. 20 CFR 625.14 states "Any provision of State law authorizing waiver of recovery of overpayments of compensation shall not be applicable to DUA."

APPEALS
Any determination regarding eligibility for DUA benefits or the amount of the entitlement may be appealed. You must file the appeal within 60 days of the date the determination was issued to you. **DUA appeals cannot be filed online.** Appeals may be faxed to (608) 327-6498 or mailed to the UI Hearing Office – DUA, PO Box 7975, Madison, WI 53707.

Sign your appeal and include your name, Social Security Number, a copy of the determination, and dates when you, your agent, attorney, or witnesses are not available for a hearing. Continue to file your weekly claims until your appeal is resolved.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES
It is your responsibility to give accurate and correct answers to any questions asked regarding your initial and weekly claims for DUA benefits. Failure to furnish requested documents or information may result in benefits being delayed or denied.

All information is subject to verification. DUA benefits are provided through federal funds. Criminal and/or civil penalties for violation of federal and/or state laws will be enforced for willfully making false statements or concealing information to obtain or increase your DUA benefits.