

September 25, 2018

Unemployment Bulletin

Disaster Unemployment Assistance available in parts of South Carolina

SITUATION: In a press release dated September 25, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) announced Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has been made available in the following 4 counties: Dillon, Horry, Marion, and Marlboro. Additional counties may be added as recovery efforts continue. Should coverage be expanded, we will communicate that to you as it becomes available.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: Hurricane Florence began affecting the above counties on September 14, 2018. A Presidential declaration of disaster was put into effect making DUA funding available. The deadline for filing a DUA claim for these counties is October 24, 2018. After this date, the claim will not be considered timely and will not be honored. Claims are being taken by the DEW at <https://dew.sc.gov/> or by calling 866/831-1724

More information on this recent DUA declaration can be found on the DEW website at:

<https://dew.sc.gov/news-details-page/2018/09/25/disaster-unemployment-assistance-available-for-four-counties-affected-by-hurricane-florence>

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is a partnering program between the USDOL and FEMA to provide funds to state UI agencies for the payment of UI benefits under certain circumstances. It provides disaster unemployment assistance to individuals who have lost employment as the result of a major disaster and are NOT otherwise eligible for regular UI benefits.

Individuals are eligible if they lived, worked, or were scheduled to work in the affected areas and:

- No longer have a job or place to work; or
- Cannot reach the place of work; or
- Cannot work as the result of damage to the place of work; or
- Cannot work due to injury sustained in the disaster
- Became the breadwinner or major supporter of a household due to the death of head of household resulting from the disaster

DUA benefits are only payable during the Disaster Assistance Period (DAP) not to exceed 26 weeks. The weekly benefit amount for which the person may be eligible is determined by the governing laws in the state in which the claim was filed. Any benefits claimed under the DUA program are 100% federally funded which means employers' UI accounts will not be charged. While employer chargeability for regular UI that is related to a disaster varies from state to state, South Carolina statute provides for relief of charges to affected merit rated employers. **This relief of charges provision does not apply to reimbursing employers. As with all UI claims in South Carolina, regular UI claims filed as a result of this disaster will be subject to a 1-week waiting period (if not already served in his/her current benefit year).**

ACTION STEPS: More information on the DUA program can be found at:

<http://workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/unemploy/disaster.asp>

It bears repeating that the deadline for filing DUA claims related to storms in the above listed counties is October 24, 2018.