

**Disaster Unemployment Assistance
Rights and Responsibilities
DUA-07**



**Commonwealth of Kentucky Labor Cabinet
Office of Unemployment Insurance**

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A claim has been filed for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA). A determination of eligibility will be made, and you will be notified by mail. It is very important that you read and understand the information in this handbook regarding your rights and responsibilities while claiming DUA benefits. It is your responsibility to contact your local office or the DUA Unit to ask questions if you do not understand the information contained in this handbook. Contact the DUA unit at 502-564-3240.

Many of the procedural rules for individuals filing for regular unemployment compensation also apply to DUA applicants. You may find additional information in the *UI Claimant Guide (Rights & Responsibilities Pamphlet)* (<https://kcc.ky.gov/career/Documents/PAM400.pdf>).

Purpose of the DUA Program

The DUA program provides payment and reemployment assistance to individuals who are unemployed as a direct result of a major disaster and who are not otherwise eligible for another form of Unemployment Compensation. A major disaster is any natural catastrophe or other type of disaster that results in a Presidential declaration of a disaster.

DUA Base Period

The DUA Base Period is the calendar year prior to the date of the disaster. For example, if the disaster occurs between January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026, the base period is January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. This is different than the base period used to establish regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims. Therefore, your weekly benefit amount may be different on DUA than on regular Unemployment Insurance.

DUA Application Requirements for Self-Employed Individuals

If you are self-employed, you have twenty-one (21) days from the date the DUA application is completed to provide proof of income from self-employment. The preferred documentation is your most recent tax return; however, other supporting documentation is accepted (for example: property titles or deeds for the place of business, state or federal income tax return Schedule-C-wages only, Rental agreement or letter from property owner showing actual or expected occupancy dates, state tax registration, phone bill, insurance bill, business records that demonstrate self-employment). See "Upload Supporting Documents" below.

DUA Application Requirements for Individuals in Non-Covered Employment

Some employers are not required to pay into unemployment insurance; this is considered "non-covered" employment. Examples include some types of religious organizations, non-profit organizations, and the National Guard. If you worked in non-covered employment, then you will have twenty-one (21) days from the date the DUA application is completed to provide proof of income. The preferred documentation is your most recent tax return or W2; however, other supporting documentation will be accepted.

Upload Supporting Documents

To upload documents, visit KCC.KY.GOV and click "Unemployment Services." Select "File or Access Your Claim." Click "Sign in with ID.me" and log in to the Unemployment Insurance Claims Portal. Select "Document Upload." Click "Add Document", select the Document Type, Attachment Name, enter any comments you wish to add. Click "Submit" button to submit. Your document will automatically become available for UI staff to review. You may upload a maximum of five (5) documents at one time; until these

documents are processed, you may not submit additional documents. You may upload relevant documents in .jpg, .png, .pdf, .tif, or .eps format. The file must not exceed 10MB in size and must be unencrypted.

DUA Weekly Benefit Amount

The weekly benefit amount for a DUA claim is calculated using the same formula that is used to calculate the weekly benefit amount for a regular Unemployment Insurance. See the *UI Claimant Guide (Rights & Responsibilities Pamphlet)* (<https://kcc.ky.gov/career/Documents/PAM400.pdf>). To estimate your benefits, see the Benefits Calculator tool (<https://kcc.ky.gov/Pages/Unemployment-Insurance-Benefits-Calculator.aspx>)

The maximum DUA weekly benefit amount is **\$746 per week**.

The minimum DUA weekly benefit amount varies depending on when the DUA benefits period is declared:

- For DUA periods **declared January—March 2026**, the minimum weekly benefit amount is **\$255**.
- For DUA periods **declared April—June 2026**, the minimum weekly benefit amount is **\$257**.
- For DUA periods **declared July—September 2026**, the minimum weekly benefit amount is **\$262**.

If you have insufficient wages, or your weekly benefit amounts computes to less than the minimum weekly benefit amount, your weekly benefit amount will be assessed at the minimum weekly benefit amount corresponding to calendar quarter in which the disaster was declared.

For Example, **if a claimant filed a claim for DUA benefits declared available in April 2026:**

- If their weekly benefit amount is calculated to be \$257, the DUA weekly benefit amount will also be \$257.
- If their weekly benefit amount is calculated to be \$150, the DUA weekly benefit amount will be \$257.
- If they cannot establish a valid claim, their DUA weekly benefit amount will be \$257.

NOTE: There is no minimum weekly benefit amount for the part-time unemployed workers. If a worker is employed part-time, the weekly benefit amount will be determined based on the percentage of time the employee was employed compared to the customary and usual hours per week that would constitute fulltime employment. That percentage will be multiplied by the minimum weekly benefit amount for the disaster.

General Eligibility Requirements for DUA Benefits

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

- Your unemployment must be a direct result of a major disaster.
- You must apply for DUA benefits within **sixty (60) days** of the declaration of the major disaster.
- You must provide proof of employment and income within **twenty-one (21) days** from the date you filed an application for DUA benefits.
- You must be able and available for fulltime work. This means that you must be able to accept suitable work, and there must be no reason that keeps you from looking for or accepting a fulltime job for which you are qualified (unless you are injured as a direct result of the major disaster).
- **You must request your benefits on a timely basis.** Each Sunday, our agency will email you a link where you can request your weekly DUA benefits.
- You must accept any suitable work offered.
- You must register for work within ten (10) days of claim filing.
- You must engage in at least five (5) verifiable work search activities per week. At least three (3) of these five (5) activities must be job applications for employment or interviewing for employment.

Requesting Your Weekly Benefits

A Letter of Entitlement will be mailed informing you if your claim for DUA is approved or denied based on the information provided. If your claim is denied, the reason for the denial will be stated on the letter. If your claim is approved, then your DUA weekly benefit amount will be stated on the letter. The Letter of Entitlement is an appealable document; if you disagree with the decision or the weekly benefit amount, you will have **sixty (60) days** to file an appeal.

Work Registration

Kentucky claimants must create an account at Citizen Connect (<https://www.citizenconnect.ky.gov/login>) and complete registration. If you live outside of Kentucky, you must register for employment services with the state workforce agency in the state where you live. You may do so with Career One Stop (<https://www.careeronestop.org/JobSearch/FindJobs/state-job-banks>).

You must submit proof of registration to the Kentucky Office of Unemployment. **Failure to register and upload proof within ten (10) days of filing a claim** may result in denial or delayed benefits. Upload proof of registration through the “Document Upload” feature in your UI claim portal. For details, see the “Upload Supporting Documents” section above. If you are a member of a Trade Union that finds work for its members, or if you have a definite return-to-work date within one year of the day you file the claim, you are not required to submit proof of registration.

Work Search Activities

To be eligible for DUA benefits, you must actively seek full-time work. Claimants must engage in at least five (5) verifiable work search activities per week. At least three (3) of these five (5) activities must be formal job applications or job interviews. Other work search activities include job shadowing, job fair or networking event hosted by a state or local government or business, job search skills workshop or seminar, and participating in an official Kentucky Career Center program or partner program related to employment or job search. Only claimants with a Work Search Exception are exempt from seeking work.

Keep all records of your work search activities. Work search activities may be verified or randomly audited for up to one (1) year after your claim expires. You must be able to provide detailed information about your work search for each week you request benefits. For more information about work search requirements, see the *UI Claimant Guide (Rights & Responsibilities Pamphlet)* (<https://kcc.ky.gov/career/Documents/PAM400.pdf>).

Reasons You May Become Ineligible

There are several reasons that you may not be eligible to receive DUA benefits. Some of the common reasons you may be ineligible or disqualified are:

- You become eligible to receive another form of Unemployment Compensation.
- Your reason for unemployment is no longer a direct result of the major disaster that your DUA claim is based upon.
- You are not able to work or are not available for fulltime work.
- You are not looking for work as instructed or are not seeking fulltime work.
- You worked or earned wages that exceeds your weekly benefit amount.
- You returned to fulltime employment.

This is only a partial list of reasons that you may be disqualified or ineligible. If it is determined that you are disqualified or ineligible from receiving benefits, you will be notified of the reason in writing. If you disagree with the determination, you will have 60 days to file an appeal.

Appeal Rights

If you disagree with a determination regarding your DUA benefits, you have the right to file an appeal within **sixty (60) days** of the mailing date of the determination. You must file an appeal in writing. You can fax your appeal to (502) 564-7850, email it to uiappeal@ky.gov or mail it to the following address:

**Division of Unemployment Insurance Appeals Branch
500 Mero Street
Frankfort, KY 40621**

A hearing will be held before an Appeals Referee. If you are dissatisfied with the Referee's decision, you must request a review by the Regional Administrator within fifteen (15) days of the mailing date of the Referee's decision.

Taxable Income

You may elect to have 10% of your benefits withheld for Federal taxes and 3.5% withheld for State taxes.

You make this selection when first completing your initial application for DUA benefits.

This option may only be changed once during your benefit year. To change this selection, you must contact 502-564-2900.

Your Responsibilities

You have certain responsibilities when claiming and receiving DUA benefits. Failure to meet these responsibilities may lead to a delay or denial of benefits. Your responsibilities include:

- Provide correct answers to any questions asked and provide supporting documentation when completing your initial application for DUA benefits. All information is subject to verification. Failure to furnish requested documentations or information can result in a delay or disqualification of DUA benefits.
- Request your DUA benefits weekly. Failure to request your benefits timely may result in a delay or

disqualification of DUA benefits.

- Make five (5) job contacts per week and to report those contacts to the DUA Unit when you request your weekly benefits. Failure to report this information accurately may result in a delay or disqualification of benefits.
- Report any work refusals to the DUA Unit.
- Stop claiming benefits when you return to work and to report all wages earned from odd jobs or part-time employment when requesting your DUA benefit checks.
- Read the information in this handbook and contact your local Kentucky Career Center or the DUA Unit (502-564-3240) to ask questions if you do not understand the information you have been provided.

Penalties for Fraud

Anyone who knowingly makes false statements or conceals material facts in order to obtain benefits that they would not be entitled to receive is committing fraud. Disaster Unemployment Assistance is a Federal program, and penalties are prescribed by law for willful misrepresentation or concealment of material facts. False statements, misrepresentation, or unreported earnings may result in disqualification (for up to 52 weeks), felony charges, fines, and imprisonment. Any benefits fraudulently received must be repaid to the Office of Unemployment Insurance and the case will be referred for criminal prosecution.

Statement Required Under the Privacy Act of 1974 for Disaster Unemployment Assistance

The Privacy Act of 1974 requires that you be furnished this statement because you are being asked to include your social security number on the DUA application and payment request forms. Your social security number will be used to report your receipt of DUA payments to the Internal Revenue Service as income that is potentially taxable. It will also be used to process your claim, for statistical purposes, and to verify your eligibility for DUA and other public assistance benefits information requested for use by the Education and Labor Cabinet and the U.S. Department of Labor is authorized under section 407 of the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5177) and section 906 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1106). All information furnished will be confidential except to the extent that the release of such information is authorized in the processing of your claim and will not be released or used for any purposes other than for establishing your entitlement for DUA benefits, for statistical and research studies, and to ensure that benefits have been paid properly.

Additional Information

The information contained in this handbook is for your information. It is not intended to be an official statement about the Robert T Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. It contains a brief description of the procedures and requirements for the DUA program. If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this handbook or if you have a question about a specific situation not covered in this handbook, please contact the office at 502-564-3240 for further assistance.