



Emergency Unemployment Compensation – 2008 2008 Supplemental Appropriations Act (EUC08) - Public Law 110-252 FACT SHEET

When did the state enter into the agreement with United States Department of Labor?

Governor Schweitzer signed an agreement with the United States Department of Labor on July 1, 2008.

What does this agreement mean for Montana Unemployment Insurance Claimants?

An individual who has exhausted all "regular" Unemployment Insurance Benefits and is not eligible for a "new" Unemployment Insurance claim in Montana or another state can file a claim for an extension.

How can a claimant file a claim?

Customers can begin filing claims on Monday, July 7, 2008. Claims can be filed by the following options:

Customers can access the Unemployment Insurance Internet application at UI4U.mt.gov.
Or Call:
Billings Claims Center (406) 247-1000
Helena Claims Center (406) 444-2545

When is the earliest effective date for an extension claim?

The first effective date of an Initial Claim under the extension is July 6, 2008.

How many weeks of benefits can a claimant be eligible for?

The duration of the extension claim is the lesser of 13 weeks or 50% of the "regular" claim duration. Individuals may be eligible for anywhere from 4 to 13 weeks of emergency benefits depending on what the duration was on their "regular" claim.

Example: If an individual's "regular" claim was eligible for 22 weeks, their extension claim would be eligible for 11 weeks of benefits.

How much per week would a claimant be eligible to receive?

The claimant would be eligible for the same weekly benefit amount as the individual's last "regular" claim.

Example: If their regular Unemployment Insurance Claim was eligible for \$200 per week then the extension claim would be eligible for \$200 per week.

The program offers a "reach back" provision. What is a "reach back" provision?

The "reach back" provision allows an individual whose claim expired or who has exhausted his/her claim on or after May 5, 2007, is currently unemployed and is not currently eligible for a "regular" UI claim, to apply for emergency benefits.

How long will customers be able to file for the extension claims?

The last effective date of the EUC08 initial claims will be March 22, 2009.

The last date Montana can make payments to claimants is July 4, 2009.

How will eligible customers be notified of their potential eligibility?

The governor's office has issued a press release to inform customers of the beginning of the program.

All claimants who may be eligible will be sent a notification letter to their last known address.

If you have any questions, please contact Claims Processing Center Bureau Chief, Shirley Rush at (406) 444-0888; Special Program Manager, Colleen Scow at (406) 444-2611; Helena Center Managers: Connie Geiger at (406) 444-3466; Paul Martin at (406) 444-1411; Billings Center Managers: Tom Coonradt at (406) 247-1043; and Merrill Watkins at (406) 247-9010.