



FEMA

Overview

“Direct result of a major disaster” means an immediate result of the disaster itself, not the result of a longer chain of events caused or worsened by the disaster.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) provides unemployment benefits for individuals who lost their jobs or self-employment or who are no longer working as a direct result of a major disaster for which a disaster assistance period is declared, and who applied but are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits. See the Eligibility section for details.

Eligibility

If you are eligible for regular benefits, we must pay those benefits before taking a DUA application.

You may be eligible for DUA if one of the following occurred as a direct result of the disaster:

- You lost your job, which was more than 50% of your total income.
- You live in, work in, or travel through the disaster area.
- Your place of employment was damaged or closed.
- You were scheduled to start work but the job no longer exists or you can no longer reach the new job.
- You suffered injury or incapacitation.
- You became the breadwinner or major support of the household due to the death of the head of household.

DUA is available only during the Disaster Assistance Period, which begins with the

first Sunday following the date that the major disaster is declared. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and DUA regulations determine when the Disaster Assistance Period begins and ends.

Temporary and seasonal workers are only eligible for DUA for the weeks that they would have been employed if the disaster had not occurred. For example, if a seasonal worker was scheduled to work for four weeks after the disaster and then under normal circumstances would be terminated, that worker would be eligible only for four weeks of DUA.

Sending TWC Proof of Employment

Common Mistake:

Not sending TWC proof of employment within 21 days of applying for DUA. TWC must have documents that prove you were working, or scheduled to start working, at the time of the disaster.

Within 21 days of applying for DUA, TWC must have proof that you were:

- Working or self-employed at the time of the disaster
- Scheduled to start work on or after the date of the disaster

If you do not send us proof of employment by the 21-day deadline, we will stop paying you DUA and you will have to repay any benefits you received. In some cases, we can use information in our system, such as



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wage records, to prove you were employed at the time of the disaster.

Mail or fax proof of employment with your DUA Proof of Employment Cover Sheet to:

Texas Workforce Commission

Attn: DUA Proof

P.O. Box 149137

Austin, TX 78714-9137

Fax: 512-936-3250

Acceptable Proof of Employment

The proof you send us must be dated just prior to the disaster. Accepted forms of proof include:

- Pay stub or voucher
- Earnings statement
- Written statement from your employer
- Notarized statement from a co-worker

Proof of Self-Employment

To prove self-employment, send the following three items:

- Federal income tax form 1040
- Schedule C, F, or SE federal income tax returns for the most recent tax year
- One of the following to prove the existence of the business:
 - Property titles, deeds, or rental agreement for the place of business
 - Recent business bank, phone, utility statement or insurance bill
 - Recent sales tax return

Proof of Prospective Employment

To prove prospective employment, send us a letter from the potential employer that includes all of the following information:

- Name and address of the employer
- Employer contact name and number
- Start date of the job
- Hours of the job
- Duration of the job
- Reason why you did not start work

Proof of Prospective Self-Employment

To prove prospective self-employment, send us one of the following:

- Property titles or deeds for the place of business
- Rental agreement or letter from a property owner showing you planned to open a business at the time of the disaster
- Other evidence that you were preparing to open a business, such as advertising, state tax registration, Assumed Name Certificate

Family Unit or Business

If you worked in a family unit or business, we will assign wages and net income equally to the adult family members of the business, including wages earned by minors, unless you submit documentation to assign wages differently.

Visit this site for additional information:



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<http://www.twc.state.tx.us/jobseekers/disaster-unemployment-assistance>

Application Form:

- Online: ui.txworkforce.org
 - Click: Apply for benefits

Or call: 1-800-939-6631 and speak with an Unemployment Assistance.

You will also receive a waiver, which waves you from having to look for a job temporarily.