

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISASTER FEMA-4833-DR

Disaster Unemployment Assistance Approved for San Carlos Apache (SCA) Tribe

Benefits for those who became unemployed as a result of July Watch Fire

PHOENIX - (November 13, 2024) - The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) announced today the availability of [Disaster Unemployment Assistance](#) (DUA) for the Tribal Nation of the San Carlos Apache (SCA) Tribe to assist individuals affected by the Watch Fire that occurred July 10-17, 2024.

On October 4, 2024, President Biden authorized Federal disaster aid under [major disaster declaration number FEMA-4833-DR](#) to help individuals in the SCA Tribe of Arizona who became unemployed as a direct result of the fire.

DUA is a federal program that provides financial assistance to individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster. DES administers the DUA program for the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Individuals eligible for regular unemployment benefits are not eligible for DUA.

In addition to individuals who lost their jobs as a direct result of the major disaster, DUA may include individuals who:

- Were employed, self-employed and prevented from performing such services,
- Were unable to reach their job,
- Were scheduled to and prevented from beginning work or self-employment in the disaster area,
- Were unable to work due to injury as a direct result of the disaster, or
- Became head of household due to a death caused by the disaster.

Unemployment is a direct result of a major disaster if the unemployment results from:

- The physical damage or destruction of the place of employment;
- The physical inaccessibility of the place of employment due to its closure by tribal, federal, state, or local government in immediate response to the disaster; or
- Lack of work, or loss of revenues, if, before the disaster, the employer or self-employed business received at least a majority of its revenue or income from an entity in the major disaster area that was damaged or destroyed in the disaster or an entity in the major disaster area closed by tribal, federal, state, or local government.

A total of up to 38 payable weeks of DUA is available to affected individuals for the first payable week beginning July 14, 2024, through the last payable week ending on April 5, 2025, as long as their unemployment continues to be a direct result of the major disaster. Benefit amounts are calculated the same as regular Unemployment Insurance, using the prior tax year as the base period.

Affected individuals should apply as soon as possible, although applications can be filed up to 60 days after the declaration date of the major disaster. Initial applications must be received on or before Monday, December 16, 2024. Applications received outside of the 60 days will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

To receive benefits, documentation must be provided to verify the individual's identity with their initial application or the application cannot be processed. Supporting documentation for evidence of employment/self-employment, as well as individuals who were scheduled to begin employment or self-employment at the time of the disaster, is required when filing an initial application or within 21 days of filing the DUA application.

Required documentation includes a social security number and a copy of the most recent federal income tax form or check stubs, or documentation to support that the individuals were working or self-employed when the disaster occurred. Documentation for the self-employed can be obtained from banks or government entities, or affidavits from individuals having knowledge of their business.

Initial applications for DUA can be completed [HERE](#). If individuals are unable to apply online, they can request a paper application by contacting the DUA Call Center at 1-855-220-0905. Applicants should include the weeks they would like to claim in their initial application. For additional information or to request an initial application, please visit [our website](#).

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