

Unemployment Insurance Benefits for Federal Employees Impacted by the Federal Government Shutdown



Federal employees who are out of work due to the federal government shutdown are entitled to apply for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits.

How Do I Apply?

You can apply for UI Benefits online at www.AZUI.com anytime between 12:00 a.m. on Sunday through 6:00 p.m. on Friday.

Who May Be Eligible?

Federal employees who are out of work because of a government shutdown are considered to be unemployed or on “furlough” and may be eligible for UI benefits. While on furlough, a Federal employee is placed in a temporary non-duty and non-pay status because of lack of work, lack of funds, or for other non-disciplinary reasons.

Federal employees categorized as “excepted employees” are not furloughed and are required to continue working their regular hours, but are not paid during a federal government shutdown for their work. Per federal law, excepted employees **may not be eligible** for UI benefits.

All applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine eligibility to receive UI benefits.

What is Required Weekly to Receive UI Benefits?

File Your Weekly Claim

After filing your initial application, you must file a “weekly claim” in order to receive benefits. You will be required to answer questions about your availability for work, whether you were able to work, or whether you earned wages during this week. The Department uses this information to determine if you are eligible for benefits each week. Weekly claims can be filed online at www.azui.com.

Be Able, Be Available and Actively Search for Work

In order to be eligible for UI benefits, federal and state laws require that you:

Actively search and apply for work each week you claim benefits;

Be able to work: You must be mentally and physically able to work at a job for which you are qualified. You are not eligible for benefits if you are sick or otherwise not able to work; and

Be available to work in a job market that has jobs for which you are qualified. You must be ready to accept full-time work and to report for work at the time required by the employer.

Note: The first week you file your claim and meet all eligibility requirements, is called the “waiting week.” Per State law, you will not be paid benefits during the waiting week. The week following the waiting week is called the “first payable week.” If you are eligible, you will be paid benefits this week.

How much will my UI weekly benefit amount be?

The actual amount of benefits you will receive is set by State law. In Arizona, the minimum weekly benefit amount is \$200 and the maximum weekly benefit amount is \$320. Benefit amounts are based on a percentage of earnings paid over the 52-week period before becoming unemployed.

What Happens When the Shutdown is Over?

Once you return to full-time work, do not submit your weekly claim forms and your claim will become inactive. If you are partially unemployed, you may continue to receive partial UI benefits by submitting your weekly claims online or by mail. Remember, you must report your gross earnings in any week you work.

Note: You May Have to Pay Back UI Benefits You Receive

If you receive UI benefits and later receive a retroactive payment from your employer for the same time period, federal and state law require you to pay back the UI benefits you received. If this occurs, DES will mail you a Determination of Overpayment indicating the total amount due and how to repay the benefits.