

How to Apply for Unemployment Benefits

Hi, I'm Justin. I was happily employed, until the company I worked for closed down. I'm having a hard time finding a job and cannot support my family without income.

The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) can provide individuals who have lost their job through no fault of their own with a weekly stipend of up to \$240 for up to 26 weeks, to supplement lost income while they search for employment.

Justin applied for unemployment benefits online at www.AZUI.gov.

If you do not have access to a computer or internet, DES staff can help you with your application in offices throughout the state.

Justin qualified for benefits and began receiving payments deposited to his state-issued Electronic Payment Card.

Direct deposit is also available by completing a form on www.AZUI.gov.

Each week, Justin files his "weekly claim" on www.AZUI.gov so he can maintain his benefits. Benefits are not paid during the first week a claim is filed, as eligibility is being determined.

Justin just found a part-time job as an office aid while he looks for full-time work and receives unemployment benefits. He worked 5 hours, and even though he hasn't been paid yet, he must disclose the total amount he earned money on his "weekly claim."

To maintain his benefits, Justin is required to make an active effort to seek employment and track his progress on his weekly claim in his "Work Search Log" worksheet.

Now Justin can more comfortably search for new employment. He utilizes the no-cost workforce services at his local ARIZONA@WORK career center and receives help with job search assistance, résumé building, career training, interview techniques and more.

Justin has uploaded his new résumé and can search jobs while getting matched with hiring employers on Arizona's jobs database, www.AZJobConnection.gov.

Justin now feels confident and can refer to a list of vacancies in his areas of interest.

For more information about Arizona's Unemployment Benefits program, please visit www.AZUI.gov.