



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. I am temporarily furloughed due to the government shutdown. Am I eligible for unemployment benefits?
 - As a general rule, if you are unemployed through no fault of your own and are able to return to work when it is available, you should be eligible for unemployment benefits.
2. I am working full time during the shutdown and not getting paid. Am I eligible for unemployment benefits?
 - Exempt and excepted employees who remain on their jobs are generally not eligible for unemployment benefits because they are still employed. When requesting payment of benefits, you are still required to report work and gross weekly wages when it is earned, even if you were not yet paid for that week.
3. How do I file for unemployment benefits?
 - The quickest way to file a claim is online at www.ides.illinois.gov. You can also file by phone at 800-244-5631. To file in person, go to www.ides.illinois.gov and select Office Locator from the About IDES menu to find an office near you.
4. What documentation do I need?
 - Individuals who have been issued a Notification of Personnel Action (SF50) or Notice to Federal Employee About Unemployment Insurance (SF8) by their federal employer should have that form available when they file their claim. When necessary, we will request check stubs or a W-2 form.
5. What other information will I need to provide for my claim?
 - You will also need to provide your social security number and name as it appears on your social security card, information from your Driver's License or State ID, mailing address, phone number, email address, employment dates, and the social security numbers and dates of birth for your spouse or child if you are claiming either as a dependent.



6. Do I have to search for work or comply with the employment service registration requirement while furloughed?
 - Federal employees who are separated because of the government shutdown are considered job-attached and will not be required to conduct a job search or register for work during the furlough.
7. What is the maximum benefit amount I can receive?
 - For new claims filed in calendar year 2019, weekly benefit amounts range from \$51 to \$471 depending on earnings and are available for up to 26 weeks. Claimants with a dependent child or non-working spouse may be eligible for an additional weekly allowance. See the [Table of Weekly Benefit Amounts](#) for additional details.
8. Do I have to serve a waiting week?
 - Your first eligible week will be held as a non-payable "waiting week." The "waiting week" is a qualifying period required by law and benefits are not paid for this week. It is usually the first week for which you file your claim.
9. How soon will benefits be paid?
 - If you meet the eligibility requirements, you should receive benefits in approximately 3 to 4 weeks.
10. How do I get paid once my application is submitted?
 - Benefits are paid bi-weekly. You will be sent a UI Finding which will indicate your first certification date. After that, you will certify every other week on your scheduled day until you are no longer eligible. The best way to certify for benefits is via the internet at www.ides.illinois.gov/certify. You may also certify for benefits via Teleserve at 312-338-4337.
11. What happens if I receive back pay after the shutdown has ended?
 - If Congress reaches an agreement that includes back pay for furloughed time, federal workers will be responsible for paying back any unemployment benefits received during that time. If you have already



requested payment of unemployment benefits and you then receive payment from your government job, you must provide detailed information about the compensation you received, including dates and gross amounts.