Unemployment Insurance and Employment Services
Available to your clients

November 2020

Presented by the Illinois Department of Employment Security
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Agenda

• Unemployment Insurance Benefits Overview
• Unemployment Insurance Programs
• Illinois Job Service System- www.illinoisjoblink.com
• Other IDES Employment Service Programs
• State Partner and other Resources
Unemployment Insurance and Employment Services

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- Illinois Department of Employment Security
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Unemployment Insurance Benefits Overview

• Unemployment insurance is a state-administered program designed to provide workers with financial assistance during temporary periods of involuntary unemployment or underemployment.
Monetary Eligibility Requirements

• One of the requirements for receiving unemployment benefits is Monetary Eligibility.
• Monetarily Eligibility means claimants must have earned enough wages during the period of review to receive unemployment benefits.
• The amount claimants are eligible to receive is based on earnings and is called a Weekly Benefit Amount (WBA).
Weekly Benefit Amount (WBA)

• The minimum Weekly Benefit Amount (WBA) is $51, not including a dependent spouse ($15) or child ($26)
• The maximum Weekly Benefit Amount (WBA) is $484, not including a dependent spouse ($577) or child ($669)
  • (As of 9/21/2020)
Claimant may receive a Dependent Allowance in addition to a Weekly Benefit Amount (WBA) if he/she has:

a. A dependent child under the age of eighteen (18) or;

b. A non-working spouse

- Claimants can claim one or the other. Cannot claim both spouse and child as a dependents.
- Reporting more than one dependent child does increase Dependent Allowance.
Dependent Allowance

• The minimum allowance for a dependent spouse is $15; the maximum allowance is $93.
• The minimum allowance for a dependent child is $26; the maximum allowance is $185.
Other Eligibility Requirements

Besides being monetarily eligible for benefits, other requirements which must be met to be eligible for benefits are:

1. Claimants must be able and available for work.
2. Claimants must be actively seeking work.
Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

• The new federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program provides benefits for many individuals who have been determined ineligible for state unemployment benefits, including self-employed workers and independent contractors.

• https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/learn-about-pua.aspx
Extended Benefits

• Additional 13 weeks of benefits
• Must exhaust regular UI benefits, or PUA benefits
• Same amount as you would normally receive.
Lost Wages Assistance Program

• LWA is Lost Wages Assistance.
• The $300 a week additional payments are retroactive, beginning with week ending 08/01/2020.
• Not all claimants are eligible for LWA. Claimants WBA must be at least $100. Claimants who have a WBA of less than $100 are not eligible for LWA.
• The LWA cannot be paid later than 12/26/2020. However, LWA payments may end prior to 12/26/2020 because the funds are limited.
• At this time, we do not have an end date and are therefore, unable to provide an actual end date.
Able, Available and Actively Seeking Work

Under the emergency rules, we have made adjustments to our able and available for & actively seeking work requirement as a response to the current situation.

• The work search requirement can not be waived. However, if claimant is temporarily laid off due to the Covid-19 outbreak and hold him/herself ready and available to return to employment, he/she have met the work search requirement.
You can find password reset assistance in our Password Reset Desk Aid. Be sure to return to this log in page to enter username and new password after you have reset it.

To obtain a reset code or to have your IllinoisJobLink.com reactivated, you must contact 877-342-7533.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation.

IllinoisJobLink.com Team
The Illinois Job Link (IJL) is an employment service tool used to enhance an individual's ability to obtain employment and is also an eligibility requirement.

• There are exceptions to this requirement, including where local labor market conditions indicate employment service registration would not increase the likelihood of returning to work.

• This exception applies to workers temporarily laid off due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Therefore, the registration requirement is waived with respect to them.
Why should you use IllinoisJobLink.com?

- **Registration is required** for unemployment benefit compliance.
- Job postings are added daily.
- Resume creation if claimant does already have a resume; if claimant already has a resume, can upload the resume.
- Job seekers can tag a preferred employer to receive job referrals.
- Resumes are matched to job orders in the system, **if** demographics are completely updated.
- Employers can search resumes to find qualified candidates. Update resume weekly in IJL **weekly** to keep it “fresh”.
- Receive email notifications about hiring events, workshops and job referrals.
- Automatically documents work searches.
Information Needed to File Your Claim

It is important to have all of the following information before beginning the filing process. The application will time out after an hour of non use:

• Social security number
• Drivers License or State ID
• Employment history from the past 18 months to include name of employers, start date, last day of work and number of days worked.
Information Needed to File Your Claim

If claiming a dependent child or a dependent spouse, will need to provide dependents:

• Name
• Social Security Number and;
• Date of Birth
When to File

• File your claim for unemployment insurance benefits **during the first week of unemployment**, which would be the week you were laid off or your hours were reduced.

• Your claim is effective the week you file for benefits.

• However, if you worked during the week in which you are filing and those earnings are equal to or exceed the amount you are eligible to receive in benefits, your claim will be effective the following week.

*(Example: You file your claim on 04/18/2020. Your last day of work was Friday, 04/17/2020, and you earned $500 for that week. If your weekly benefit amount is $300, you are not unemployed for that week and your claim will be effective the following week, 04/19/2020.)*
Where to File

• Apply for benefits online at:

www.ides.illinois.gov
   – Available anytime

There are instances where individuals are unable to register online and are therefore unable to file their claim online. If you are unable to register and file online, you will need to contact Claimant Services at 800-244-5631 for assistance.
What Happens Next?

After your claim is filed, IDES will send you a UI Finding, which will include information such as:

- Your Weekly Benefit Amount (WBA), which is the amount you are eligible to receive each week.
- Your Dependent Allowance, if applicable.
- Your first certification date and;
- Other information pertinent to your claim, including your Maximum Benefit Allowance.
Maximum Benefit Allowance

Maximum Benefit Allowance is the total amount you are eligible to receive during your benefit year.
- The Maximum Benefit Allowance is your Weekly Benefit Amount (WBA) times 26 weeks.
- The Maximum Benefit Allowance does not include your Dependent Allowance.
- The Maximum Benefit Allowance does not include the Emergency Increase.

Example: Your weekly benefit amount is $350. Your Maximum Benefit Allowance is $350 (WBA) X 26 (Weeks) = $9100.
Payment Detail History

Shows total claimant has received and last date of benefit payment
Can be requested by date range
Claimant has access using the online account at www.ides.Illinois.gov
Certification

- Certification involves answering a list of questions which are asked to determine if you are eligible to receive unemployment benefits for the weeks in question.
- You will be assigned a certification day; either Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday and will be asked questions pertaining to the two weeks immediately preceding.

  Example: If your call date is Monday, 04/06/2020, you will be asked questions pertaining to the week of 03/22/2020 through 04/04/2020.

- If you miss your regular certification day you can certify on Thursday or Friday of that week. You may also you certify on your regular day in the following week (or Thursday or Friday of that week).
Certification

• There are two ways to certify for benefits:
• You can call the agency’s touch-tone voice response system called Tele-Serve at 1-312-338-4337
  ➢ Available from 5 AM to 7:30 PM or;
• You can certify online at http://www.ides.illinois.gov/
  ➢ Available from 5 AM to 7:30 PM
  ➢ Select Unemployment Insurance under the Individuals tab, then choose:

  **Certify for Weeks of Benefits**
Payment Options

• After filing a new claim, you will automatically be sent a debit card. Please activate your debit card immediately.
• You have the option to set up Direct Deposit to your checking or savings account online at www.ides.Illinois.gov. If your direct deposit is not set up at the time of your certification your benefits will be paid to your debit card. Once your Direct Deposit is set up, benefits will automatically go to your Direct Deposit account.
Benefit Payment

• Once you have certified for benefits, it will be determined if you are eligible to receive benefits based on the answers you provided.
• If you are eligible to receive benefits, generally you will receive a payment within 2 to 3 business days.
• Payments will be sent to your debit card; or if you set up direct deposit, payments will be deposited into your bank account.

➢ Normally, individuals are not paid for the first week of benefits following an initial claim. This week of nonpayment is referred to as a waiting week. However, due to COVID-19, at this time, the waiting week has been waived. Therefore, you are eligible to receive payment for the first week of your claim, along with the second week.
Benefit Payment

- Unemployment insurance benefits are subject to State and Federal income taxes.
- You can elect to have deductions taken out at the time you file your claim or after.
- Deductions are 10% federal income taxes and 4.95% state income taxes.
- You cannot elect deductions on a payment you have already been paid.
Can I work and receive benefits?

Yes. If you work and your gross earnings are less than your Weekly Benefit Amount (WBA), you may be eligible for all or partial benefits. For example, earning less than half of your WBA will not affect the amount you receive. However, if you earn more than half of your WBA, anything over half of your WBA will be deducted from your benefits.
Part-time Unemployment

Example: Your WBA is $350. You earned $275 working. Since half or your WBA is $350/2= $175, your benefits will be reduced as follows: $275 (earnings) - $175 = $100, which means $100 will be deducted from your WBA.

Therefore, for the week that you worked and earned wages in the amount of $275, you will receive $350 (WBA)-100= $250 plus your Dependent Allowance, if applicable.

Note: Dependent allowance is payable only if benefits are payable.
Disqualifying Income

I receive a pension. Will this affect my unemployment benefits?
If the pension was paid by an employer in the base period or the employer is the chargeable employer on your claim, those pension payments are considered disqualifying income.

• 50% of the amount you receive may be deducted from your Weekly Benefit Amount (WBA) if you paid into the pension or;
• 100% will be deducted if your employer paid the full amount.
• If you received a lump sum amount and did not have the option to receive monthly payments, a deduction will be made only for the week in which you received the payment.

➢ If it has been more than 18 months since you worked for the employer, the pension you are paid is not disqualifying income and therefore, will not be deducted from your benefits.
Workers’ Compensation

Is workers’ compensation the same as unemployment compensation? No. Workers’ Compensation is payment made based on the Workers’ Compensation Act and are paid due to a temporary disability.

If I receive Workers’ Compensation will this affect my unemployment benefits? Yes. 100% of your workers’ compensation will be deducted from your Weekly Benefit Amount (WBA).
Important Numbers and Websites


Tele-Serve: 1-312-338-4337

Claimant Services: 1-800-244-5631

Fax Number (for sending ALL documents): 1-217-557-4913
Other IDES Employment Service Programs
(Employment Resources for Job Seekers)

- Veterans Program
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program (WOTC)
- Apprenticeship Information Center Program
- Re-Entry Employment Services Program (RESP)
- Fidelity Bonding Program
- Hire the Future (HTF)
- Migrant & Seasonal Farmworker Program (MSFW)

For specific information please see green “Employment Resources for Job Seekers”
Other IDES Employment Service Programs  
(Employment Resources for Job Seekers)

Veterans Program
The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is a Federal tax credit available to employers for hiring individuals from certain target groups who have consistently faced significant barriers to employment.

Target Group Designations

- Qualified IV-A Recipient (receiving AFDC/TANF) (A)
- Qualified Veteran (B)
- Qualified Ex-felon (C)
- EZ/EC/RC High-Risk Youth (D)
- Vocational Rehabilitation Referral (E)
- EZ/EC/RC Qualified Summer Youth (F) (see note*)
- Qualified Food Stamp Recipient (G)
- Qualified Supplemental Security Income Recipient (H)
Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)

Up to $1500 in Tax Obligation Relief (Credit)

The tax credit for most groups (A,B,C,D,E,G and H) is calculated at the rate of 25% of the qualified first-year wages up to $6,000 for employees working at least 120 hours but less than 400 hours. This allows a maximum credit amount of $1,500.

For employees working at least 400 hours or more, the credit is calculated at the rate of 40% of the qualified first-year wages up to $6,000. This allows a maximum credit amount of $2,400.

*Qualified Summer Youth Employee (Target Group F) The tax credit for this target group is calculated at a rate of 25% of the qualified first year's wages up to $3,000. This allows a maximum credit amount of $750.

For those employees working at least 400 hours or more, the credit is calculated at the rate of 40% of the qualified wages up to $3,000 for a maximum tax credit of $1,200.
Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)

FORMS

Form 9061 (DOL; Individual Characteristics Form, WOTC & WtoW)

Information is used to ascertain job seeker’s qualification for program.
(*ex-felons hired within one year of release date no longer need to be from a financially disadvantaged family)

Must be completed on or before “Date of Hire”

(Original Copy containing actual signatures is submitted in conjunction with IRS 8850)

Form 8850 (IRS Pre-screening and credit request)

This credit request is approved based on information entered AND information contained within the Form 9061

Must be completed on or before “Date of Hire”

(Original Copy containing actual signatures must be postmarked or hand delivered before the 28th day following the “Start Date”)

Form 5584 (IRS Request for Tax Credit)

Filed with Federal tax return
Apprenticeship Information Center Program (AIC)

• The IDES Apprenticeship Information Center Program (AIC), in conjunction with the Federal Apprenticeship USA Initiative, provides assistance for apprenticeship candidates.

• Apprenticeship is a combination of on-the-job training and related instruction in which workers learn the practical and theoretical aspects of a highly skilled occupation. Apprenticeship programs can be sponsored by individual employers, joint employer and labor groups, and/or employer associations.

• To apply:
  • Obtain an apprenticeship application
  • select the apprenticeship trade(s) you are interested in by contacting them directly or by filling out their application form online if accessible.
  • Fill out completely and return it to IDES so we may refer you (details on form
Re-Entry Employment Services Program

- Adults or juveniles who are currently or have been subject to any stage of the criminal justice process and who require assistance in overcoming barriers to employment resulting from a record of arrest or conviction.

- The person may or may not have been held in a correctional institution.
A Fidelity Bond is offered at NO COST to employers. The bond is insurance coverage which enables employers to hire job applicants who may be “at risk” due to their past life.

Fidelity Bonding is available for potential employees who have:

- Limited work history
- Poor credit history
- Record of arrest, conviction or imprisonment
- Dishonorable military discharge

Coverage is:

- At least $5,000, depending on the person’s job responsibilities.
- Can begin as soon as the new employee’s first day of work.
- Available for the first six months, but can be renewed for an additional six months if the bond remains a condition of employment.
Hire the Future is designed to provide youth, ages 16-24 with employment assistance, job readiness and career development services.
The Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers (MSFW) Program

• IDES MSFW staff meet informally pre-season to prepare for the arrival and locations of migrant farmworkers; prepare outreach activities for the duration of the migration and agricultural season, review expected employment and supportive needs of migrant and seasonal farmworkers, and identify available resources to meet their needs.

• Each IDES office and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity’s (DCEO) American Job Center offer MSFWs a full range of employment services.

• Offices designated as "Significant MSFW Offices" provide bilingual Outreach Worker staff trained to provide specific USDOL Employment and Training Administration (ETA) MSFW-mandated program services.

• The Illinois "Significant Offices" also provides or arranges for field outreach and service to MSFW’s in coordination with our partner, the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS
• Illinois Workforce Development
• Illinois Community College Board
• Illinois Department of Employment Security
• Illinois Department of Human Services
Resources

• Illinois Job Link (IJL): (www.illinoisjoblink.com)
• State Employment: (www.work.illinois.gov)
• The Illinois Career Information System (CIS): (www.ilcis.intocareers.org)
• Resumes/Re-Employment info: (www.illinoisworknet.com).
• Labor Market Information: (www.illinois.VirtualLMI.com)
• Illinois Department of Employment Security (www.ides.illinois.gov)
• IDES Resource & Career Information Rooms
• Partners Available To Assist You