

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2009 Ohio Extended Benefits Announced

On April 1, 2009, Governor Ted Strickland signed legislation amending Ohio law to allow up to 20 weeks of additional unemployment compensation (UC) for eligible Ohioans based on the Total Unemployment Rate (TUR) criterion.

“This law provides extended unemployment compensation to those unemployed Ohioans who have exhausted all regular state UC benefits and federal emergency unemployment compensation as of February 22, 2009,” said ODJFS Director Douglas Lumpkin.

There are two levels of payments available as a result of the legislation. The first level allows up to 13 weeks of Ohio extended benefits. These 13 weeks became available because the average TUR (seasonally adjusted) for the most recent three-month period equaled or exceeded 6.5 percent, and the average TUR was at least 110 percent of the average TUR for the same three-month period in one or both of the two preceding calendar years. The second level will provide eligible jobless Ohioans up to an additional seven weeks of benefits, for a potential total of 20 weeks of Ohio extended benefits. These seven weeks became available as a result of Ohio’s average TUR having exceeded 8 percent for the past three months.

“In this time of economic hardship, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services will move as quickly as possible to issue these benefits,” Lumpkin said.

Potential eligible individuals who have exhausted their unemployment benefits will receive instructions by mail or telephone within the next few weeks on how to file for extended benefits. ODJFS is in the process of reprogramming the unemployment delivery system to be able to issue these extended benefits. Claimants will receive payments retroactive to February 22 or their date of federal emergency unemployment compensation exhaustion, whichever is later.