

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Unemployment Benefits Set To Expire for Many Ohioans

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has begun notifying Ohioans whose unemployment compensation benefits may be ending soon because of recent federal eligibility deadlines.

Without a federal extension, Ohioans who exhaust their regular state benefits after May 22, 2010, will not be eligible for Extended Unemployment Compensation (EUC). Any individual who exhausts his or her current tier of EUC after May 29, 2010, will not be eligible for the next tier.

Unless Congress acts, an estimated 98,000 Ohioans will exhaust their unemployment benefits in June.

“We urge Congress to extend benefits for Ohioans who continue to look for work,” said ODJFS Director Douglas Lumpkin. “Thousands of Ohioans caught in the nationwide economic downturn are relying on unemployment benefits for basic needs.”

Governor Ted Strickland joined Director Lumpkin in urging Congress to act: “I trust that Congress will extend unemployment benefits when they return next week, but it’s unfortunate that these benefits were allowed to expire. Unemployed Ohioans deserve the certainty that the unemployment compensation system is there to support them while they search for a new job.”

Currently, eligible unemployed Ohioans can receive benefits for up to 99 weeks: 26 weeks of “regular” state unemployment, followed by 53 weeks of federal extended unemployment benefits and an additional 20 weeks of extended state benefits, which are federally funded.

“Any claimant who has not exhausted their full 99 weeks of compensation, should continue to file weekly claims,” said Lumpkin. “If Congress approves an extension, benefits could be issued retroactively.”

Ohio’s unemployment rate was 10.9 percent in April, down from 11 percent in March.

For more information about ODJFS employment programs, Ohioans should visit their local One Stop Center. A list of One Stop Centers is available online at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/owd/wia/wiamap.stm>. For information about other assistance programs, Ohioans should visit their county department of job and family services or log on to the Ohio Benefit Bank at www.obb.ohio.gov. Out-of-work Ohioans are also encouraged to visit www.ohiomeansjobs.com, where they can access more than 100,000 job openings.