



## **Disaster Unemployment Assistance**

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) provides weekly benefits to individuals who are unemployed as a direct result of a disaster as declared by the president of the United States, but who are ineligible for regular unemployment benefits. The DUA benefits may be paid throughout the disaster assistance period, as long as the individual's unemployment is a direct result of the disaster. The disaster assistance period is generally 26 weeks, beginning with the first full week after the disaster began.

Although DUA benefits are similar to regular unemployment benefits, it is a distinct and separate program. The purpose of the program is to provide temporary assistance to workers and their families during difficult times and to maintain their purchasing power in their communities. DUA funds are made available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and are administered by states under the guidance of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. Reemployment services may be provided by local OhioMeansJobs centers.

### **Who is eligible for DUA?**

Workers who are totally or partially unemployed as a direct result of a declared disaster and who are not eligible for regular UC benefits may be eligible for DUA. This can include self-employed workers, farmers and farm owners, those who lack sufficient weeks and wages in covered employment to be eligible for UC, and those with jobs that are not in covered employment, such as churches. Employment is considered "covered" if it was subject to unemployment insurance and if the employer was determined liable for worker coverage.

Participants also may include individuals who are prevented from beginning employment or self-employment due to the disaster. This includes individuals who live in the disaster area but who are unable to reach their place of employment outside the disaster area, as well as those who must travel through a disaster area to their place of employment but are unable to do so as a direct result of the disaster.

### **How can DUA funds be used?**

DUA is a cash benefit that recipients may use for any purpose.

### **Where can I get more information?**

Email [Interstate\\_Federal\\_Claim@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Interstate_Federal_Claim@jfs.ohio.gov) or call (866) 458-0007, option 2.