



FEMA

News Release

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FEDERAL DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

DOWNERS GROVE, Ill. —President Obama issued a disaster declaration Aug. 19 designating Cook, DuPage, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago counties as disaster areas because of the rains and flooding that occurred between July 22 and Aug. 7.

Disaster unemployment benefits may be available to those working or living in one of these seven counties during that time period who are unable to qualify for traditional state unemployment benefits and who:

- Were injured in the disaster and are unable to work, whether self-employed or working for an employer;
- Did not have transportation to work;
- Could not get to a job because it required traveling through the affected area;
- Derived most of their income from areas affected by the disaster, whether self-employed or working for an employer, and whose business is down as a direct result of the disaster.

The deadline to apply is Thursday, Sept. 23. Individuals generally can receive benefits as long as their unemployment continues to be a result of the disaster. Eligibility for benefits will be determined on a week-to-week basis. Federal funding covers 100 percent of the cost for the DUA program, which is administered by the state.

Individuals who might be eligible for assistance must file a claim at their nearest Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) office. To find your closest office, go online to www.ides.state.il.us. **Internet access is available at Illinois libraries or WorkNet Centers.** Office locations also are available by calling IDES at **1 888-367-4382**. TTY users call **1 866-322-8357**.

Individuals who live in the declared disaster area are encouraged to apply for assistance with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Go online at www.disasterassistance.gov or call **1 800-621-FEMA (3362)**. TTY users may call **1 800-462-7585**. Help in various languages is available.

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