

Federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC)

IMPORTANT: Congress has extended the eligibility dates for the EUC program. Eligibility may be established through December 31, 2011 and the last payable week for this program is June 9, 2012.

The extension did not add any new tiers or weeks of benefits to the program.

General Information

This program was created in 2008 by President Bush and provides for up to 53 weeks of additional unemployment compensation to eligible unemployed individuals. It is comprised of four tiers of benefits. The first tier provides up to 20 weeks of additional compensation and is available in all states. The second tier of benefits provides for up to 14 weeks of compensation and is available in all states. The third tier provides for up to 13 weeks of benefits but only to states with a high rate of unemployment. The fourth and final tier of benefits provides up to 6 additional weeks of benefit but this tier is also only available to states with a high rate of unemployment.

Alaska's unemployment rate reached Tier 4 levels effective January 16, 2011. The first payable week for Tier 4 benefits is the week ending January 22, 2011.

The first week payable on EUC was July 12, 2008. The last week payable is June 9, 2012. EUC claims must be established on or before December 31, 2011.

The EUC Extension Act of 2010 provides that an EUC Option may apply to individuals that meet certain criteria. An individual may continue to collect EUC after they qualify for a new claim for regular unemployment insurance (UI) if:

- Their most recent paying benefit year ended after July 22, 2010.
- They have EUC eligibility and an EUC balance on the most recent paying benefit year.
- The weekly benefit amount (WBA) on the new claim is \$100 or 25% less than the WBA of the EUC.

If an individual is qualified to file a new regular claim in **any** state, and does not meet the criteria for an EUC option, all payments on the EUC program must stop.

Eligibility Criteria

You must initially apply for EUC online or through a claim center. When you apply, a letter explaining the number of weeks and the amount you are eligible for will be sent to you. Weekly benefit amount is based on your last payable claim that ended on or after May 1, 2007, including any Dependent Allowance that was on that claim. If you have questions regarding your entitlement, contact your nearest claim center.

You may be eligible for EUC benefits if:

- You had an unemployment insurance benefit claim that ended on or after 5/1/2007;
- You are not eligible for a new claim in Alaska or any other state; and
- You are not eligible for Alaska Extended Benefits (EB) or you have exhausted your EB entitlement.

When you are filing for EUC benefits, you must:

- Register and create an online resume in the Alaska Labor Exchange System (ALEXSYS) at www.jobs.state.ak.us within 7 days from establishing your claim. If you need assistance with ALEXSYS, call 1-877-724-2539 or visit your local Job Center during regular business hours.
- If you are living out of state, you must register with your local Employment Service Center within 7 days from establishing your claim.
- All regular UI requirements apply to EUC (see UI Handbook at http://www.labor.state.ak.us/esd_unemployment_insurance/uihandbook.pdf)