

## **ILLINOIS UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

### **1. Who is eligible for unemployment benefits?**

Workers who lose their job through no fault of their own OR who quit with good cause related to the work or the employer. To be eligible, workers must also have earned at least \$1,600 from the employer over a quarterly lookback period.

Laid off workers are typically eligible for benefits. Workers fired for misconduct are not eligible. Workers who quit working due to concerns over coronavirus may be eligible for benefits, depending on the circumstances. Workers who quit working to take care of their children due to coronavirus related school closures are eligible for benefits.

### **2. How many weeks of unemployment benefits are available?**

26 weeks.

### **3. What is the weekly benefit rate?**

The weekly benefit rate is calculated using your prior earnings with the employer. The maximum weekly benefit is \$484 (individual), \$577 (individual plus dependent spouse), and \$669 (individual plus dependent spouse and children). Unemployment benefits are taxed.

### **4. How are unemployment benefits paid?**

Direct deposit or through a prepaid debit card.

### **5. When should you apply for unemployment?**

File your claim for unemployment benefits during the first week after you become unemployed.

### **6. How do you apply for unemployment?**

File for benefits online at [IDES.Illinois.gov](https://www.ides.illinois.gov) or at an Illinois Department of Employment Security office. The Department of Employment Security may interview you regarding your

eligibility for benefits. Within 7-10 days after filing, you will receive a letter detailing your eligibility for benefits, weekly benefit amount, and certification day.

**7. How do you remain eligible for unemployment?**

You must certify for your eligibility for benefits every two weeks on your certification day. The failure to timely certify could cause denial of benefits or a delay in processing your benefits. You may certify online at <http://www.ides.illinois.gov/certify> or by using the Tele-Serve system. You will be asked several questions, including:

- (1) Whether you were able and available to work.
- (2) Whether you actively looked for work. Record contacts on the following form: <http://www.ides.illinois.gov/IDES%20Forms%20and%20Publications/ADJ034F.pdf>
- (3) All gross wages you earned during the reporting period.

Being unable to work, failing to actively look for work, and/or earning wages may reduce your unemployment benefits.

**8. When will benefits be paid?**

You will typically receive benefits within 2-3 days after your certification responses are approved.

**9. When do benefits end?**

When you return to work, cease filing biweekly certifications, and/or exhaust the 26 week maximum.

**10. Can your employer contest benefits?**

If your employer believes that you are ineligible for benefits, it may contest your claim. Your claim will be heard before an adjudicator. If your benefits are denied by the adjudicator, you may appeal the decision.