

## **MISSOURI 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 \$2,250 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 to take care of their children generally are not eligible. Workers receiving sick pay or family medical leave pay are not eligible for unemployment because they are not considered “unemployed.”

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

20 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 \$320. 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?**

As soon as you separate from employment.

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

You can apply online at <https://uinteract.labor.mo.gov>. You can call the following numbers for assistance: 314-340-4950 (St. Louis) and 573-751-9040 (Jefferson City).

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

To remain eligible for benefits, you need to complete a number of steps each week:

(1) File your request for payment every week as early as Sunday. This can be filed online at <https://uinteract.labor.mo.gov>.

(2) Report in person to a Division of Workforce Development office. You are only required to report in person if asked. You will be notified by mail if required to report.

(3) Search actively for work. Upon filing, you will be told the number of contacts with potential employers you are required to make each week. Record the contacts on the following form in case it is requested by the Division of Employment Security:

[https://labor.mo.gov/sites/labor/files/pubs\\_forms/4736-AI.pdf](https://labor.mo.gov/sites/labor/files/pubs_forms/4736-AI.pdf).

**NOTE:** Members of a union with a hiring hall can skip step (2). If you have a recall date within eight weeks, you can skip steps (2) and (3).

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

You will typically receive benefits within 22 days of your initial claim filing. You are required to file a request for payment each week, even if you are not yet receiving a benefit payment.

#### **9. When do benefits end?**

When you return to work, cease filing weekly requests for payment, and/or exhaust the 20 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 a referee. If your benefits are denied by the referee, you may appeal the decision.