

Illinois Unemployment Benefits

Workers temporarily laid off due to COVID-19 can get Unemployment Insurance.

Illinois residents who are temporarily out of work because their employer has closed due to the coronavirus can qualify for UI if they meet all the other basic requirements.

The state isn't expecting anyone to go out looking for a new job during a stay-at-home order: as long as applicants are prepared to return to their job as soon as the employer reopens, they'll be considered to be actively seeking work and will qualify. Under emergency rules, these workers will not have to register with the employment service.

Here's how to apply for UI

You can call the Illinois Department of Economic Services at (800) 244-5631 or 866-488-4016 (TTY), but users are urged to file claims on line via the IDES website visit www.ides.illinois.gov. And do not go in person: as of March 19, IDES offices are closed to the public until further notice.

To accommodate the massive surge of applicants, the agency has staggered times for people to submit claims:

- People whose last names start with the letters A through M are asked to file claims online on Sundays, Tuesdays or Thursdays.
- Last names beginning with N through Z should file claims on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays.
- Saturdays are set aside for people who aren't able to file during their allotted time.

People without internet access should call in according to the following schedule, per IDES:

- Last names beginning A through M, on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Last names N through Z, on Mondays and Wednesdays between 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Between 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Fridays for those who can't file during their allotted time.

The day or time of day in which a claim is filed will not impact whether you receive benefits or your benefit amount. Additionally, claims will be back-dated to reflect the date in which a claimant was laid-off or let go from their job due to COVID-19.

Information needed to file an Internet Claim - Online

- Your Social Security Number and Name as it appears on your Social Security card;
- Your Driver License / State ID
- If claiming your spouse or child as a dependent, the Social Security Number, date of birth and name(s) of dependent(s);
- Name, mailing address, phone number, employment dates, and separation reason for all the employers you worked for in the last 18 months;
- Wage records (W-2 form, check stubs, etc.) from these employers may be necessary.

- You must report all gross wages for any work performed, full or part-time; Gross means the total amount earned before deductions, not "take home pay", Gross wages must be reported the week in which they are earned, not the week in which you receive the wages;
- Records of any pension payments you are receiving (not including Social Security);
- If you are not a United States citizen, your Alien Registration Information.

Know how and when you will be paid.

Benefits are paid for calendar weeks that begin on Sunday and end on Saturday. You cannot be paid until you have certified that you have met all eligibility requirements during that week. You must certify every two weeks for continuing benefits. Claimants can choose to receive benefits by direct deposit or by the use of a debit card. **Note: The days in which you can file a claim may be different from the days in which you are asked to certify.**

For out of State Claimants:

For people living outside Illinois, the process of filing a claim in Illinois is the same as it is for in-state residents. You may file a claim in one of two ways:
File using the online application (recommended), or Call IDES Claimant Services at 800-244-5631 (TTY 886-488-4016)

https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/UI_Live_out_of_state.aspx

Resources Illinois

General Information about the Unemployment Insurance Program:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/individuals/UnemploymentInsurance/Pages/default.aspx>

To file a UI claim online:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/aboutides/Pages/10%20Things%20You%20Should%20Know.aspx>

To file a claim by telephone number:

<http://www.ides.illinois.gov/SitePages/ContactIDES.aspx>

Coronavirus update: Illinois is providing updates on Unemployment Insurance changes related to COVID-19:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/COVID-19-and-Unemployment-Benefits.aspx>