

Important Information for Those on Unemployment in Illinois

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Davis Statement on Resumption of Unemployment Compensation Payments in Illinois

July 23, 2010

After consultation with staff it is my understanding that Illinois hopes to begin making payments for back weeks as soon as tonight and hopefully be mostly caught up by the end of next week. The back payments, combined with the ongoing payments, present a capacity issue for the system. The system cannot pay everybody at once. Illinois hopes to get the majority caught up by the end of next week. Problem cases and other unique cases would more than likely fall into the next week especially for those that stopped certifying.

The IDES website now includes the following information:

On July 22, the President signed legislation to extend certain temporary unemployment benefit programs that had begun to wind down as of May 29. Under the new law, the number of weeks of benefits available to an Illinois claimant, based on a single application, will continue to range from 26 to 99, depending upon when he or she initially applied for regular benefits. The maximum 99 weeks of benefits will include 26 weeks of regular state benefits; 53 weeks of emergency unemployment compensation (EUC), in four separate tiers of 20, 14, 13 and six weeks, and 20 weeks of extended benefits (EB).

Under the new law:

Individuals who do not exhaust regular benefits by November 20, 2010, will not qualify for EUC.

Individuals who exhaust regular benefits on November 27, 2010, will potentially qualify for one week of EB.

Individuals who exhaust an EUC tier after November 27, 2010, will not graduate to the next tier.

The EB program will terminate in Illinois as of December 4, 2010.

The new law will not extend the federal additional compensation (FAC) program, which has provided claimants an extra \$25 per week in addition to the unemployment benefits they would otherwise receive. Individuals who initiated a regular benefit claim before May 29, 2010, will remain potentially eligible for FAC through the week ending December 11, 2010.

The new law will not increase the total number of weeks available based on a single application beyond 99.

If you are one of the over 100,000 Illinois claimants whose benefit payments were interrupted while the new law remained pending in Congress, the Department will release payments for all back weeks for which you are eligible as quickly as possible. There is no need for you to contact the Department unless you receive instructions to do so. Please ensure that you have submitted a bi-weekly certification using Teleserve or the Internet for all back weeks for which you believe you are eligible.

* The information provided is based on the Illinois Department of Employment Security's (IDES's) reading of the new legislation and prior guidance documents issued by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL). The information is subject to change pending USDOL's issuance of official guidance regarding the new legislation.