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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2025

TRENTON – Furloughed federal employees assigned to work in New Jersey are eligible to apply for unemployment insurance benefits during the ongoing federal government shutdown that began October 1, 2025. Benefits will be paid to eligible federal workers for the duration of the shutdown, regardless of when the claim is filed.

“Our department is ready to support furloughed federal workers across New Jersey throughout this shutdown. We are committed to ensuring that impacted employees receive the assistance they need in a timely manner,” said Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo.

Eligibility & How to Apply

Furloughed federal workers must [apply for unemployment](#) benefits in the state where they are assigned to work. Applicants will need to provide proof of wages, such as pay stubs or federal pay statements. Employees who are furloughed may be eligible for benefits, provided they meet all other standard requirements under New Jersey unemployment law.

For 2025, the maximum weekly unemployment benefit in New Jersey is \$875. Regular unemployment benefits may be paid for up to 26 weeks.

A law passed in 2019 (Public Law 116-1) says that if federal or D.C. government employees are furloughed (sent home without pay) during a government shutdown, or if they have to keep working during one, they must be paid for that time once the shutdown ends. However, even though the law promises payment, Congress still must approve the funds.

Workers who collect unemployment benefits but later receive retroactive back pay from their federal employer will be [required to repay any overpaid benefits](#) to the State of New Jersey.

Federal employees who opted into the Deferred Resignation Program (DRP) and received a buyout through September 30, 2025 are not considered part of the current shutdown. For unemployment insurance (UI) purposes, participation in the DRP must be treated as a voluntary separation from employment.

NJDOL must also recognize the unique situation of “excepted” federal employees – those required to work during the shutdown without pay. Federal law currently prohibits unemployment insurance benefits for employees who are still performing work, even if they are not being compensated at this time.

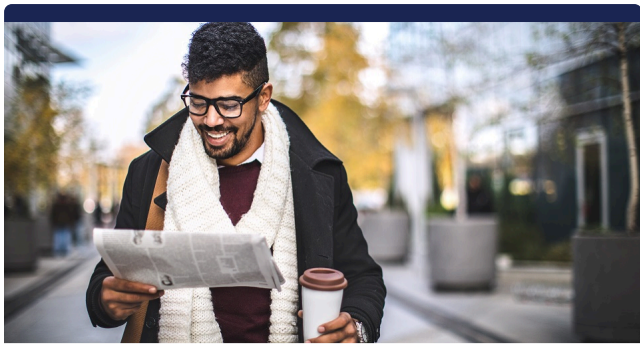
The Department remains committed to supporting all affected workers and will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available.

To check eligibility, visit myunemployment.nj.gov/federal.

To apply for benefits, visit myunemployment.nj.gov.

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Department of Labor and Workforce Development
1 John Fitch Plaza
Trenton, NJ 08625