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Some New Jersey Residents Affected by Hurricane Ida May Be Eligible for Federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 20, 2021

TRENTON – New Jersey residents affected by Hurricane Ida may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) after President Biden declared a major disaster in Bergen, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Union, and Warren Counties on September 5, 2021.

Individuals who lost their jobs directly due to the disaster and work or live in one of the above counties may be eligible for these DUA benefits:

- Individuals unable to reach their job because they must travel through the affected area and are prevented by doing so by the disaster.
- Individuals who were to commence employment but were prevented from doing so by the disaster.
- Individuals who became the major support for a household because the death of the head of the household was caused by the disaster.
- Individuals who cannot work because of an injury caused as a direct result of the disaster.

Unemployment is a direct result of the major disaster if the unemployment resulted from:

- The physical damage or destruction of the place of employment.
- The physical inaccessibility of the place of employment due to its closure by the federal, state, or local government in immediate response to the disaster.
- Lack of work, or loss of revenues, if, prior to the disaster, the employer or self-employed business received at least a majority of its revenue or income from an entity in the major disaster area that was damaged or destroyed in the disaster or an entity in the major disaster are closed by the federal, state, or local government.

Before an individual can be determined eligible for DUA, it must be established that the individual is otherwise ineligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits under any state or federal law. Therefore, claimants must first apply for state unemployment benefits by visiting [MyUnemployment.nj.gov](https://myunemployment.nj.gov). When applying for DUA, claimants should cite "Impacted by Hurricane Ida," as the reason for separation. If deemed ineligible for regular benefits, NJDOL will reach out to the claimants with further DUA information.

Claims for DUA must be filed by October 20, 2021.

The DUA program is a part of the federal disaster assistance process but is administered by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOL).

More info may be found [here](#).

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"We will miss you, Tim. Thank you for showing us your big heart, letting us hear your great laugh, and for the help you provided to most -- if not all -- of those in the Division of Workers' Compensation along the way."

<https://twitter.com/GovMurphy/status/1443263008424275968>

Sep 29, 2021



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The Return and Earn program will assist New Jerseyans in returning to the workforce, and provide employers with the resources they need to fill the vital positions that will allow them to grow and thrive.

<https://twitter.com/GovMurphy/status/1442535848197697538>

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