Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment Insurance (UI) is a State (through Employment Development Department (EDD)) managed insurance program where, by law, an employer pays the insurance premium to the State and the State pays employees partial income if they become unemployed or have their work hours reduced.

In California, to qualify for UI:
- You must have permission to work legally (e.g. citizenship, green card, work permit) in the United States;
- You lost your job through no fault of your own;
- You earned enough money during the base period (a 4-quarter period in the past 18 months); and
- You must be ready, willing, and able to work and are actively seeking work.

How much is my benefit?
- Weekly benefit amounts range from $40 to $450, depending on your earnings during the base period.
- EDD has a website that can help you determine your UI benefit amount: https://edd.ca.gov/en/Unemployment/UI-Calculator

How do I apply?
1. The easiest way to apply is online through EDD’s Benefit Programs Online website. EDD provides Benefit Programs Online in English and Spanish: https://portal.edd.ca.gov/WebApp
2. If you do not wish to use EDD’s English or Spanish online portal, you can apply by phone: Hours: 8 AM to 5 PM (Pacific time)*, Monday through Friday, except state holidays. *Note: Monday morning before 10 AM is the busiest call time, so we recommend calling at other times. Phone numbers:
   - English and Spanish: 1-800-300-5616  Armenian: 1-855-528-1518
   - Cantonese: 1-800-547-3506  Korean: 1-844-660-0877
   - Vietnamese: 1-800-547-2058  TTY: 1-800-815-9387
   - California Relay Service (711): Provide the UI number (1-800-300-5616) to the operator
3. Apply by mail or by fax
   - Mail completed English or Spanish DE1101** form to this address:
     EDD
     PO Box 989738
     West Sacramento, CA 95798-9738
   - You can also fax the completed English or Spanish DE1101** form to 1-866-215-9159

** Although EDD only accepts UI application forms in English or Spanish, EDD provides sample forms in many other languages: Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and others. Use the sample forms as your guide to fill out the English form.
To qualify for continued UI benefit:

✔ You must be ready, willing, and able to work and are actively looking for work. Ready to work means there is nothing to stop you from taking a job right away if it is offered to you.

  • If you are sick and cannot work, or if you need to take care of a close family member and cannot work, you are not eligible for UI. You may be qualified for other benefits, such as State Disability Insurance (SDI) or Paid Family Leave (PFL).

✔ To continue receiving UI benefits, you must continue certifying for benefits every two weeks.

  • If you stop certifying for benefits, EDD will interpret the lack of certification as an indication that you have obtained new employment and no longer need the UI benefits. If you later lose your job again, you will need to reopen your UI claim to receive benefits if that UI claim was opened within the last 12 months.

**If you speak a language other than English or Spanish, interpreters can be provided to you at no cost.

For more information and in-language assistance, please contact the following numbers: