
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE UPDATE

Disaster Declaration. Disaster Unemployment Assistance ([DUA](#)) is available to eligible individuals as a result of a [major disaster declaration](#) signed by President Donald Trump on August 17, 2020, and [amended](#) on August 20, 2020, to make individual assistance available to Linn County. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [announced](#) on September 2, 2020, that homeowners and renters in Benton, Boone, Cedar, Jasper, Marshall, Polk, Poweshiek, Scott, Story, and Tama counties may now also apply for individual assistance for losses resulting from the severe storms on August 10, 2020. The announcement allows eligible individuals in the additional counties, along with Linn County, to apply for DUA.

Unemployment Assistance. The Iowa Department of Workforce Development (IWD) is accepting [applications](#) for DUA from individuals in the designated counties listed above whose employment or self-employment was lost or interrupted due to severe storms beginning August 10, 2020. DUA expands eligibility for unemployment benefits and aids the self-employed, including business owners and farmers. DUA provides temporary income to eligible individuals who become unemployed as a result of a major disaster. It is funded by the federal government, not by State unemployment taxes paid by employers.

Individuals from Linn County must file DUA applications by September 24, 2020. Individuals from Benton, Boone, Cedar, Jasper, Marshall, Polk, Poweshiek, Scott, Story, and Tama counties must file for DUA by October 2, 2020. Applications received after the deadlines will be considered untimely, unless the individual provides good cause for filing after the deadline. Individuals can receive up to 27 weeks of DUA benefits if their unemployment continues to be a result of the disaster. Eligibility for DUA benefits is determined on a week-to-week basis.

Additional Information. Additional information on DUA is available [here](#).

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