

# Federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC)

## General Information

Federal legislation enacted in July 2008 provided up to 13 weeks of extended benefits for workers who exhausted their regular UI benefits in Alaska and across the country. Legislation enacted in November 2008 adds up to 7 weeks to the earlier extension, for a total of up to 20 weeks of extended benefits (EUC Tier 1). The legislation passed in November also provides up to 13 weeks of additional EUC benefits for states that reach a total unemployment rate greater than 6% (EUC Tier 2). Alaska's total unemployment rate is above 6% and will pay EUC Tier 2 benefits.

The first week payable on EUC was July 12, 2008. The last week payable is July 3, 2010. EUC claims must be established before 12/26/2009.

Federal law does not allow payments to be made on any extended benefit claim if the individual is qualified to file a new regular claim in **any** state, regardless of the benefit amount on the new regular claim. Once an individual is qualified to file a new regular claim in **any** state, all payments on the extended benefit claim must stop.

## Eligibility Criteria

You must initially apply for EUC online or through a claim center. When you apply, a letter explaining the number of weeks and the amount you are eligible for will be sent to you. Weekly benefit amount is based on your last payable claim that ended on or after May 1, 2007. This includes Dependent Allowance that was established. If you have questions regarding your entitlement, contact your nearest claim center.

You may be eligible for EUC benefits if:

- You had an unemployment insurance benefit claim that ended on or after 5/1/2007;
- You are not eligible for a new claim in Alaska or any other state; and
- You are not eligible for Alaska Extended Benefits (EB) or you have exhausted your EB entitlement.

- You have exhausted all EUC Tier 1 benefits (EUC benefits that were established prior to 11/22/08. )

When you are filing for EUC benefits, you must:

- Register and create an online resume in the Alaska Labor Exchange System (ALEXSYS) at [www.jobs.state.ak.us](http://www.jobs.state.ak.us) within 7 days from establishing your claim. If you need assistance with ALEXSYS, call 1-877-724-2539 or visit your local Job Center during regular business hours.
- If you are living out of state, you must register with your local Employment Service Center within 7 days from establishing your claim.
- All regular UI requirements apply to EUC (see UI Handbook at [http://www.labor.state.ak.us/esd\\_unemployment\\_insurance/uihandbook.pdf](http://www.labor.state.ak.us/esd_unemployment_insurance/uihandbook.pdf) )

### **State and Federal Law**

On June 30, 2008, President Bush signed into law H.R. 2642, the Supplemental Appropriations Act that provides up to 13 weeks of Extended Unemployment Compensation 2008 (EUC). Governor Palin signed an agreement with the federal government on the same day to begin paying these benefits to eligible Alaska unemployed workers beginning July 12, 2008.

On November 21, 2008, the President Bush signed into law the Supplemental Appropriations Act which amends the original Act to expand the EUC program to provide up to an additional 7 more weeks of benefits to workers that live in states with high levels of unemployment, Alaska met this criteria.

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law HB 1 titled the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The recovery legislation, Public Law Number 111-5, extends the expiration date of the EUC program. The period during which an individual may establish eligibility for EUC is extended from March 31, 2009, to the week of unemployment ending on or before Dec. 31, 2009, and the "phase-out" or expiration date of the program is extended from Aug. 27, 2009 to May 31, 2010.