

Who is Eligible for Illinois Unemployment Benefits?

- You are eligible if you:
 - A. Have earned \$1,600.00 total during your “base period”; \$440 must have been earned outside of your highest paid quarter;
 - Your “base period” consists of the four calendar quarters before a claim for benefits was filed.
 - If you worked part-time, you are eligible as long as you meet the income requirement.
 - Have had a reduction in hours (possibly)
 - B. Have become unemployed through no fault of your own;
 - Temporary layoffs due to COVID-19 are eligible, if:
 - You are confined to your home due to a COVID-19 diagnosis, or because you need to care for a spouse, parent, or child who’s been diagnosed with COVID-19;
 - You have had to leave work due to a child’s school closure;
 - NOT if you left work voluntarily due to concern about COVID-19;
 - NOT if you are receiving paid leave.
 - C. Are able and available to return to work.
 - You must register with the state employment service at Illinois JobLink (www.IllinoisJobLink.com) to show your availability, UNLESS you were temporarily laid off due to COVID-19– then you are NOT required to show your availability.
- Certain categories of Immigrants qualify for benefits
 - You must have valid work authorization, both at the time the wages were earned and at the time you are looking for work. The following are eligible, so long as this requirement is met:
 - Lawful permanent residents (“green card” holders)
 - DACA recipients
 - Lawfully in the U.S. to perform services (e.g., H2, H-1B workers, and any other with work authorization)
 - Permanently Residing Under Color of Law (PRUCOL) (e.g., refugees, immigrants who have been granted asylum, among others)

How are Benefits Calculated?

- A weekly benefit amount is determined by:
 - Adding the amount of the two highest earning quarters from a base period;
 - Taking 47% of the total received from adding the two highest earning quarters; and
 - Dividing the result by 26.
- The maximum weekly unemployment benefit is currently \$471.00

What is the Duration of Unemployment Benefits?

- You may receive unemployment benefits for a total of 26 weeks.

How are Unemployment Claims Filed?

- Currently, you must submit your application using the online system at www2.illinois.gov/ides/individuals/unemploymentinsurance.
- You should be prepared to report past and current wages and to provide details on the reason for your separation from employment.

What to do if a Claim is Denied?

- Appeal the denial of benefits within 30 days of the finding of ineligibility.
- Forms and instructions are available through Illinois Legal Aid Online at Illinoislegalaid.org/legal-information/appealing-ides-unemployment-decision
- If you are interested in legal representation, apply at legalaidchicago.org.