

Unemployment benefits for state employees

Applying for unemployment benefits

You should apply during the first week after being laid off, and continue to submit a claim each week to receive ongoing benefits. The unemployment benefits page at esd.wa.gov/unemployment will tell you everything you need to know.



**Employment
Security
Department**
WASHINGTON STATE

Apply online - it's faster!

Applying online is the best way to go. You can submit weekly claims, see how much you'll be paid, read and reply to notices, update your personal information, sign up for direct deposit or a debit card, apply for training, send questions and more.

First you'll need to sign in with SecureAccess Washington (SAW) — a single entry point for multiple government services. You might already have a SAW account if you renewed your driver's license, bought a fishing license or accessed other government services online.

Once you have your SAW account, you'll be able to sign in to eServices. Start at esd.wa.gov. You'll find a handy [user guide](#) to help you sign in the first time and navigate the unemployment benefits system.

You also can apply by phone at **800-318-6022**. Certain rules apply, so read the unemployment benefits page at esd.wa.gov/unemployment before you call.

Have your information ready

Whether you apply online or by phone, be ready with:

- Your Social Security number.
- Names and addresses of all your employers during the last 18 months.
- Dates you worked for all your employers during the last two years. Use your best estimates if you don't remember exact dates.
- The reason you became unemployed.
- Your employment authorization and expiration date, if you're not a U.S. citizen.

Benefit payments usually begin arriving about three weeks after you apply.