

West Suburban Jobs Council

WSJC



Questions and Answers regarding Unemployment April 2020

Please reference the following documents from the IDES website: www.ides.illinois.gov
Search for the 3 documents: “What Every Worker Should Know about Unemployment Insurance”;
“I Filed My Claim What Happens Now”
“Unemployment Insurance Benefits Handbook”

1. Q - I am working with a veteran who was receiving unemployment benefits back in Oct or so. He collected one payment from unemployment, and then took a 1099 job. Does anyone know if he would be eligible?
A - Yes, he has the right to file an additional claim if he’s still in his benefit year and hasn’t exhausted 26 weeks of payments. His eligibility will be determined at an interview.
2. Q - I have two clients who quit their jobs because they had accepted other positions. They have since been told by the companies they were going to join that their start dates have been delayed, and my guess is the new start dates are in jeopardy because these companies may not be able to hire a new employee once they re-open their doors. Are these clients eligible for unemployment benefits while they are looking for new jobs? I think they both have offer letters from the employers with whom they were supposed to start working.
A- Yes the have the right to file a claim. When the file the claim, they will have to put the reason for quitting. They will have to have an interview to determine their eligibility. (“What Every...Q-4”)
3. Q - If you have exhausted your 26 weeks of UI can you get an extension?
A -At this point unfortunately no- Keep checking IDES website for details.
4. Q - If you are in the midst of collecting UI (pre -Covid) can you get the additional \$ 600 per week?
A- at this point no - Keep checking IDES website for details.
5. Q - If you do not have access to a computer and you need to file a claim -
A - Try calling after 5:00 pm (the call volume is a little lighter)
6. Q - How do you know if you qualify for unemployment?
A - If you made (gross) \$ 1600 over the past 12 months you can file for unemployment. You must have earned at least \$440 outside of the quarter which your earnings were the highest. (“What Every... Q1”)
7. Q- Job searching is very difficult right now during Covid - 19
A- In order to maintain eligibility for unemployment, you must be able and available to work. If you are off because of COVID-19, you must be able and available to work when your employer reopens. (“What Every...Q 5 and Q 6. see also “Benefits Handbook”)

8. Q - If someone is discharged/terminated for cause or one quits

A -Yes, have the right to file a claim. When the file the claim, they will have to put the reason for quitting. They will have to have an interview to determine their eligibility. (“What Every...Q-4”)
They will be scheduled for an interview with an IDES adjudicator to determine if the situation qualifies the individual to receive unemployment insurance benefits.

For more questions and answers visit: <https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/COVID-19-and-Unemployment-Benefits.aspx>

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