

**Illinois Department of Employment Security
Unemployment Insurance Claim Filing
Frequently Asked Questions**

• **When and where do I file for benefits?**

Your unemployment insurance (UI) claim should be filed once you have become unemployed. We recommend filing for benefits online at www.ides.illinois.gov. If you have any questions, contact IDES Claimant Services at (800) 244-5631.

• **What information do I need to file for benefits?**

- Social Security number and name as it appears on your Social Security card.
- Your drivers license or state ID.
- If you are claiming your spouse or child as a dependent, the social security number, date(s) of birth and name(s) of dependent(s).
- The name of all employers you worked for in the last 18 months; the beginning and ending dates of employment for these employers; the mailing address of each employer; phone number and separation reason for each employer.
- If you are not a U.S. citizen, your Alien Registration information.

• **How much will I receive and how long does it last?**

Your benefit amount is based on your recent income. The maximum benefit amount is \$484 per week. Those who have a qualifying dependent receive an additional amount. Benefits are paid for up to 26 weeks. If an extension is approved by the federal government, you will be notified.

• **What does it mean to certify for benefits?**

After filing a claim for unemployment insurance benefits, you must “certify” your eligibility to receive payment.

• **When do I certify for benefits?**

After filing your claim for unemployment insurance benefits, you will receive a notice titled “UI Finding”. This notice will indicate your first certification date, which is approximately 2 weeks from the date you submit your claim. You will be required to certify on the date indicated on the notice and every two weeks thereafter in order to receive payment.

• **How do I certify for benefits?**

The best way to certify for benefits is by going online to www.ides.illinois.gov/certify. You can also certify by calling (312) 338-4337.

• **When do I receive payment and where is it sent?**

After completing your certification and your responses are approved, benefits are received within 2-3 business days. You will be issued a debit card automatically. You may, however, sign up for direct deposit when you file for benefits, or at any point thereafter.

• **What are Rapid Response Services?**

Rapid Response Services are available to employers who are planning or have gone through a permanent closure or mass layoff, or a natural or other disaster, that results in mass job dislocation. The State Dislocated Worker Unit coordinates with [employers](#) to provide information to workers and employers about employment and retraining services designed to help participants retain employment when feasible, or obtain re-employment as soon as possible. For more information, visit [Rapid Response Services for Businesses](#) or contact your local Illinois workNet Center.