



Ohio Unemployment Insurance Guidance for Federal Employees Affected by the Federal Shutdown

- Federal employees affected by the federal government shutdown can file for Ohio Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits if they are partially or totally unemployed due to the federal shutdown.
- Federal employees that are still working during the shutdown generally are not eligible for Ohio UI because they are considered still employed.
- Federal employees who wish to file for unemployment insurance are encouraged to file with the state where the individual's federal wages are assigned. For example, if a federal employee has their residence in California, but their current job is in Ohio, they typically will file with the State of Ohio. By contrast, a federal employee with their residence in Ohio, but a current job in California typically will file with the State of California.
- New Ohio UI claims may be filed online at www.unemployment.ohio.gov (*go to the "I am an Unemployed Worker" tile, "Apply/Login"), or those needing special assistance may call (877) 644-6562.
- Individuals filing new claims must have at least 20 weeks of employment and an average weekly wage of \$338 during the 12 months beginning April 1, 2024, and ending March 31, 2025, to qualify for benefits. A benefits estimator can be found at www.unemployment.ohio.gov in the "Resource" tile under the "Benefits Estimator" tile.
- Federal employees affected by the federal shutdown are required to make an active search for work by completing at least two work search activities each week, and providing that information when they file their weekly claims.
- Unlike other employers, federal employers do not report wage information to state labor departments. Therefore, when the affected federal employee files for Ohio UI benefits, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) will send a request for wage and separation information directly to the federal employer and an affidavit of wages to the employee.
- If the requested wage and separation information is not provided by the federal agency (for example they are unable to respond because they too are affected by the shutdown), we will use the employee affidavit to obtain the needed information. In these cases, employees will need to ensure their affidavits are accompanied by supporting documents that show wage history.
- Claims are usually processed within four (4) weeks, at which time approved claims will be paid for eligible weeks that have been claimed. Federal employees should continue to file their weekly claims while their application is pending.
- Claimants will receive a New Claim Instruction Sheet that advises them when to file weekly claims for benefit payments. Instructions may also be found at www.unemployment.ohio.gov in the "I am an Unemployed Worker" tile under "After Filing an Application" on the left-hand side navigation.
- If individuals are paid Ohio UI benefits and later receive backpay for the same weeks, the UI weeks will be considered overpaid, and ODJFS will send a notice requiring repayment of the benefits.