

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA CONTACTS:
Tom Betti: 614-728-9645
thomas.betti@jfs.ohio.gov

Dasia Clemente: 614-817-2945
Dasia.Clemente@jfs.ohio.gov

Disaster unemployment assistance now available for Ohioans impacted by recent tornados

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is available to eligible individuals as a result of a major disaster declared by the President on May 2, 2024. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is accepting applications for DUA from individuals in Auglaize, Crawford, Drake, Delaware, Hocking, Licking, Logan, Mercer, Miami, Richland, and Union Counties, whose employment or self-employment was lost or interrupted due to tornadoes on March 14, 2024. **Applications for DUA must be filed by July 2, 2024.**

To be eligible for DUA benefits under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-DR 4777, individuals:

- Must be an unemployed or self-unemployed worker whose unemployment was caused as a direct result of the major disaster declared by the President; **and**
- Must be a U.S. national or a qualified alien; **and**
- Must not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits from any state; **and**
- Must have worked or were self-employed in, or were scheduled to begin work or self-employment in, one of the counties listed above; **and**
- Must establish that the work or self-employment they can no longer perform was their primary source of income.

Also eligible to apply for DUA are individuals who

- Can no longer work or perform services because of physical damage or destruction to the place of employment as a direct result of a disaster; **or**.
- Cannot perform work or self-employment because of an injury caused as a direct result of the disaster; **or**
- Became the breadwinner or major support of a household because of the death of the head of the household; **or**,
- Cannot work or perform self-employment due to closure of a facility by the federal government.

Individuals will need their Social Security Number and the name and address of their last employer or prospective employer to file for DUA. Applicants are required to provide proof (at the time of filing or within 21 days of filing their DUA claim) that they were employed or self-employed at the time the disaster occurred or were scheduled to begin (or resume) a job or self-employment when the disaster occurred. A copy of the most recent federal income tax forms or check stubs may also be required (self-employed individuals should also provide their Schedule SE and Schedule C or Schedule F.)

Applications filed after July 2, 2024 will be considered untimely, unless the individual provides good cause for filing after this date. Individuals can generally receive up to 26 weeks of DUA benefits as long as their unemployment continues to be a result of the disaster. Eligibility for DUA benefits will be determined on a week-to-week basis.

Individuals who may be eligible for assistance must file a claim by calling 1-877-644-6562 toll-free by July 2, 2024.

Free career and employment services also are available at OhioMeansJobs.com and local OhioMeansJobs centers. For local offices information, visit jfs.ohio.gov/county.

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The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services manages vital programs that strengthen Ohio families. These include job training and employment services, unemployment insurance, cash and food assistance, adult protective services, and child support services.