

# **Unemployment benefits related to partial federal shutdown**

**\*Update 1/28/19: Now that the shutdown is over, if you would like to “cancel” the weeks you filed for unemployment compensation, you MUST call 1-800-361-4524. This CANNOT be done online. If you have already received payment for any week(s) during the shutdown, these benefits will need to be repaid once backpay is awarded.**

## **Notice to workers furloughed due to partial federal shutdown**

Federal workers affected by the partial shutdown should apply for unemployment insurance benefits either online at [www.labor.alabama.gov](http://www.labor.alabama.gov) or by phone at 1-866-234-5382. Unemployment applications CANNOT be made in person; they are only accepted online or by phone.

If you do not have Internet or phone access at home, please visit your local [Career Center](#). However, please be aware that Career Center employees provide employment services; they cannot process unemployment claims and do not have the expertise to answer questions about unemployment benefits.

Here are some common questions regarding unemployment benefits for federal employees on furlough:

**Q: I'm being put on temporary leave without pay (furloughed). Am I eligible for unemployment benefits for the time I'm off?**

**A:** As a general rule, if you are unemployed through no fault of your own and are available to work, you should be eligible for benefits – assuming you meet other [requirements](#).

Keep in mind: Unemployment benefits are determined on a weekly basis. You have to be unemployed for most or all of a week (Sunday through Saturday) in order to be eligible for benefits.

**NOTE:** We decide eligibility on a case-by-case basis. Anyone has a right to [file](#) for benefits and claim weekly benefits. When we have all the facts, we will decide if you're eligible.

**Q: I am temporarily unemployed as a result of the federal shutdown. What should I report as the reason for my separation when I apply for unemployment benefits?**

**A:** Report your separation as a “lack of work.” Do not select “strike/lockout” or “fired.” The furlough is not the result of a labor dispute (strike or lockout) or your employer firing you from your job. Selecting either of those options will slow down your claim.

**Q: I am currently working, but am not getting paid? Am I eligible for benefits?**

**A:** No, if you are working 32 hours or more, you will not be eligible for benefits.

**Q: Will I get paid for every week I file a claim?**

**A:** The first time you file your weekly claim (usually the week after you submit your initial application) and are eligible to receive benefits will be considered a “waiting week.” You will not be paid benefits for your waiting week. If you then stop claiming and later reopen your claim, you will not have to serve another waiting week during this unemployment claim.

**Q: Do I have to look for work if I am waiting to go back to work with my employer?**

**A:** Federal employees who are separated because of the partial government shutdown will not be required to conduct a job search at this time.

**Q. What if I receive back pay for the days I was furloughed?**

**A:** If you receive back pay for any day you also were paid unemployment benefits, you must report your hours and earnings and you will be required to pay us back.

Additional information regarding Unemployment Compensation for can be found [HERE](#).