

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Unemployed Texans Will be Paid Benefits for Past Weeks

Long-term unemployed again will be eligible for unemployment benefits

AUSTIN – The deadline for jobless Texans to qualify for emergency unemployment benefits has been extended to January 3, 2012. On Thursday, Congress passed the bill which extends the filing deadline to allow long-term claimants to continue receiving unemployment benefits. President Barack Obama signed the bill shortly after it was passed. This action did not add more weeks for those who previously exhausted all state and federal benefits.

Benefits to approximately 100,000 Texans stopped due to the previous deadline. The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has been advising those claimants to continue requesting payment, so they now can receive payment. This legislation did not add benefits for those who have exhausted all their regular, Emergency Unemployment Compensation, and Extended Benefits.

Claimants who are eligible for the federally funded extensions will receive statements from TWC with their new benefit amounts. TWC began sending payments to claimants' accounts today and will try to have most eligible claimants paid by the end of this week. Claimants should continue to request unemployment benefit payments on their scheduled day, and check their account balances throughout the week.

Claimants can find updated information on their claims at <http://ui.texasworkforce.org>, or by calling UI Tele-Serv at 1-800-558-8321 and pressing option 2. There is no need to call TWC to qualify for this extension unless claimants receive a letter telling them to call.

Emergency unemployment benefits are entirely federally funded, so Texas employers will not be charged for any claims paid on this extension.

TWC and the 28 local workforce development boards remain committed to providing work search assistance, training and other services to unemployed Texans. Thousands of job postings are available on WorkInTexas.com, TWC's online, job-matching Web site at www.workintexas.com

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The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the services it offers in coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.