

Understanding Extended Unemployment Benefits



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Overview

There are two programs for extending unemployment insurance (UI) benefits.

- *Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC)*
- *Extended Benefits (EB)*

Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC)

Texas qualifies for EUC Tiers 1, 2, 3, and 4.

- **EUC Tier 1** pays up to 20 weeks of benefits to claimants who exhaust regular UI benefits by February 25, 2012. TWC sends you an EUC application and determines your eligibility. [See EUC Details section for more information.](#)
- **EUC Tier 2** pays up to 14 weeks of benefits to claimants who exhaust EUC Tier 1 benefits by March 3, 2012. TWC automatically adds the benefits to your claim. [See EUC Details section for more information.](#)
- **EUC Tier 3** pays up to 13 weeks of benefits to claimants who exhaust EUC Tier 2 benefits by March 3, 2012. TWC automatically adds the benefits to your claim. [See EUC Details section for more information.](#)
- **EUC Tier 4** pays up to 6 weeks of benefits to claimants who exhaust EUC Tier 3 benefits by March 3, 2012. TWC automatically adds the benefits to your claim. [See EUC Details section for more information.](#)

If you have a balance on your EUC claim, you have until August 18, 2012, to request payment of those funds.

Extended Benefits (EB)

Texas qualifies for the High Unemployment Period (HUP) of EB, which pays up to 20 weeks of benefits.

- EB provides benefits for eligible claimants who have exhausted all available benefits by March 3, 2012. TWC automatically adds the benefits to your claim. [See EB section for more information.](#)

Current Address

- TWC notifies you by mail when you qualify for an extension, so make sure we have your correct address.
- To verify your current address, log on to [Unemployment Benefits Services](#), select **Contact Information** from the **Change My Profile** menu, and follow instructions.

EUC Details

EUC Tier 1 pays 20 weeks of benefits or 80 percent of your regular UI claim, **whichever is less.**

EUC Tier 2 pays 14 weeks of benefits or 54 percent of your regular UI claim, **whichever is less.**

EUC Tier 3 pays 13 weeks of benefits or 50 percent of your regular UI claim, **whichever is less.**

EUC Tier 4 pays 6 weeks of benefits or 24 percent of your regular UI claim, **whichever is less.**

Applying for EUC Benefits

Tier 1—TWC mails you an EUC application to complete and return to TWC after you exhaust your regular benefits.

Tier 2, 3, and 4—if you are currently receiving benefits, you do need to apply for EUC Tiers 2, 3 or 4. If you exhaust your prior EUC tier by March 3, 2012, TWC *automatically* adds the next tier to your claim.

Note: Texas began paying Tier 4 benefits beginning December 11, 2011. If you exhausted all benefits before December 11, 2011, TWC mailed you instructions on how to apply for EUC Tier 4. Complete the instructions to restart your EUC claim.

Note: Continue to submit your [Payment Request](#), as required.

Eligibility - The deadline to qualify for EUC is set by federal law. If Congress extends the deadline to qualify for EUC, TWC will notify eligible claimants by mail.

Tier 1—You must exhaust your regular UI benefits by February 25, 2012, **and** your EUC Tier 1 claim must begin February 26, 2012, or before. **TWC determines your eligibility** for the extension once you complete and return the EUC application to TWC.

Tier 2, 3, and Tier 4—you must exhaust your prior EUC tier by March 3, 2012.

Other eligibility requirements:

- your base period wages must equal or exceed 40 times your weekly benefit amount. (If your regular claim pays 26 weeks of benefits, you meet this qualification.)
- you must have exhausted your regular benefits on your most recent claim, or the claim year must be expired.
- your regular claim must have been filed on or after May 7, 2006.
- you cannot be eligible for unemployment benefits on a new regular claim* in Texas, in any other state, or Canada.

* Note: if you are eligible for a new regular claim that pays less than your EUC claim, you may have options. TWC will mail you a letter if you have an option to continue your EUC claim.

EB Details

Extended Benefits (EB) pays 20 weeks of benefits or 80 percent of your regular UI claim, **whichever is less**.

Applying for Extended Benefits - The last date Texas can pay EB is set by federal law. If Congress extends the deadline for EB, TWC will notify eligible claimants by mail.

You do not apply for EB. If you exhaust all available benefits on your most recent claim by March 3, 2012, TWC *automatically* adds EB to your claim.

Note: Continue to submit your [Payment Request](#), as required.

Eligibility

- Your most recent regular claim must have exhausted all available benefits by March 3, 2012.
- The last week Texas can pay EB is the week ending March 10, 2012.
- You can't be eligible for unemployment benefits on a new regular claim in Texas, in any other state, or Canada.

Work Search and Availability Requirements

If you are required to look for work, your work search and availability requirements **increase** while you are receiving EB.

- You must submit your [EB work search log](#) **each time** you request payment.
- You also should seek and accept any work you are capable of that pays:
 - a gross weekly wage greater than your weekly benefit amount and
 - at least the legal minimum wage.

If you do not make your minimum number of weekly work search activities, **or**, you do not submit your EB work search log, you **will be denied benefits** until you have:

- worked for four weeks; and
- earned four times the weekly benefit amount of your claim.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How will I know if I'm eligible for an extension when I run out of regular benefits?

If you run out of regular benefits by the deadline, TWC mails you a EUC application. Complete the application and return it to TWC. If you are eligible for EUC, TWC mails you a letter showing the amount you are eligible for on your EUC claim.

2. I've exhausted my benefits and I heard that Congress passed another benefits extension law in December 2011. Can I get more benefits?

No. Congress extended the deadlines to qualify for all **existing** extended benefit programs; however, it **did not add additional weeks** for applicants who have exhausted all benefits.

3. How will I know if I qualify for another extension?

TWC notifies you by mail if you qualify for another extension, so make sure we have your correct address.

4. Can I apply for an extension before exhausting my benefits?

No. You must exhaust all benefits before applying for an extension.

5. Is there a possibility of more extensions?

Congress can enact legislation to create further extensions at any time. **If another extension occurs after you exhaust your benefits, we will notify you by mail.**