

# **Texas Workforce Commission**

## **State Extended Benefits**

### **Your Responsibilities and Information**

State Extended Benefits (EB) are in effect in Texas through December, 2009. Claimants who have exhausted their regular state Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits and all federal [Emergency Unemployment Compensation](#) (EUC) can draw up to 13 additional weeks of unemployment benefits. The first payable week for EB is the week ending May 3, 2009.

The requirements for state EB differ from regular and EUC benefits. Please read further to understand the eligibility requirements and your responsibilities.

*Note for employers:* As part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), the federal government will pay 100 percent of the state EB. Prior to ARRA, employers paid 50 percent of these benefits through state unemployment taxes. This provision of ARRA relieves Texas employers of the additional burden on unemployment tax contributions. However, governmental employers will be liable for 100 percent of the state EB charges.

#### **Applying for Benefits**

If you exhausted your EUC benefits before July 24, 2009, TWC mailed you a letter with instructions on how to apply for EB.

Individuals who exhaust EUC benefits after July 24, 2009 do not need to take special action to apply. TWC will process an EB claim and add the additional weeks after you exhaust Tier II EUC benefits. EB begins after you use all of your regular UI and EUC benefits.

#### **Eligibility**

To be eligible for EB, you must exhaust all regular UI and EUC benefits on your most recent claim no later than December 26, 2009.

You must meet all eligibility requirements\* for EB, such as looking for work and reporting your work search activities to Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The EB work search requirements are detailed below.

*\*Note:* If you received UI benefits after quitting your job to move with your spouse, you cannot receive state extended benefits. TWC disqualifies a claimant for a minimum of six weeks and six times the benefit amount before paying benefits. State law does not require the claimant to return to work to end the disqualification on the claim for *regular benefits*. However, state and federal laws do not allow payment of *state extended benefits* (EB) to a claimant if the disqualification may be ended without returning to work.

#### **Duration and Benefit Amount**

TWC can take new EB claims for claimants who exhaust their EUC benefits through the benefit week ending December 26, 2009.

EB pays the same weekly benefit amount as your regular and EUC claims. The total amount of EB that Texas can pay is 50 percent (50%) of your regular UI claim, or a maximum of 13 weeks. TWC will mail you a letter stating the total amount of EB we can pay you. You will also receive the \$25 federal supplement.

The last week TWC can pay benefits is January 2, 2010. You will not receive any amount remaining in your balance after the program ends on January 2, 2010. If you are collecting EB from Texas (TWC) but you currently live in **another state** you are eligible for EB ONLY if the state you live in is also in an EB period. If the state you live in is NOT in an EB period, TWC can only pay you two (2) weeks of EB. The Department of Labor decides when EB periods begin and end in each state.

### **Work Search Requirements**

Unless exempted from looking for work, all claimants on the EB program must comply with the following:

1. Be sure you are registered for work search assistance with TWC at [www.WorkInTexas.com](http://www.WorkInTexas.com); or in person at a TWC office. To find a TWC office near you, use the [online directory service](#).
2. Make a **sustained and systematic** effort to find work by:
  - a. Making at least your minimum number of weekly work search activities,
  - b. Looking for work on different days of the work week,
  - c. Documenting your work search efforts on the [EB Work Search Log](#) (PDF) TWC has sent you,
  - d. Submitting your work search log to TWC every time you request payment. (Fax to 512-322-2866, or mail to TWC, P.O. Box 149261, Austin, TX 78714-9261)
  - e. Accepting suitable work that is offered to you.

TWC can exempt you from EB work search requirements if you have a definite date to return to work within a short time, you are in Commission Approved Training, or you are a member of a union with a “non-discriminatory” hiring hall. If TWC exempts you from the EB work search requirements, we will notify you in writing.

If you are unable to conduct a work search in any given week, you do not have to request payment. Call your Tele-Center.

### **Disqualifications and Appeals**

You must conduct adequate work searches or accept suitable work while collecting EB, to avoid disqualification. A disqualification will remain in effect until you have worked at least four weeks AND earned at least four times your weekly benefit amount.

You have the right to appeal all determinations regarding your eligibility for state EB.