

**State of Montana**  
Department of Labor & Industry  
Brian Schweitzer, Governor

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DIVISION  
Roy Mulvaney, Division Administrator



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## **DUA INFORMATION**

### **Purpose of the Program**

The major objective of the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program is to provide temporary income to individuals whose employment has been interrupted or lost as a result of the disaster.

**DUA is intended to individuals who are left without work in the wake of a major disaster and do not qualify for unemployment insurance benefits. The fact that you have suffered a monetary loss due to damage or destruction of property or crops does not establish entitlement to DUA.**

You must be able to show that the disaster prevented you from performing customary activities related to your employment or self-employment OR prevented you from commencing employment or self-employment.

### **Counties Eligible**

Big Horn, Carbon, Cascade, Custer, Fergus, Garfield, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, Musselshell, Petroleum, Sweet Grass, Valley and Yellowstone, as well as the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Crow Indian Reservation and the Fort Belknap Reservation.

### **Who runs the program?**

The U.S. Department of Labor administers DUA using the federal/state unemployment insurance system to process claims and pay benefits. The funds are federally appropriated and do not come out of the employers payroll taxes used to finance the regular Unemployment Insurance program.

### **Who is eligible for DUA?**

Payment of DUA will be made to workers and self-employed individuals who are left without work as a direct result of the disaster and don't qualify for any other unemployment benefits operated by the Montana Dept of Labor & Industry. Farmers, ranchers, outfitters and their employees and self-employed individuals may qualify for the DUA program.

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Those eligible include:

- Workers who have suffered either loss or interruption of employment as a direct result of the disaster, and
- Self-employed individuals who have suffered either a loss or substantial reduction or interruption of self-employment as a direct result of the disaster, such as farmers and business owners.
- An individual who becomes the head of household because the head of household died as a direct result of the disaster.

### **Payments - How Much?**

The DUA benefit amounts are based upon the individual's 2010 earnings and ranges from \$136 to \$431 per week. The receipt of other income, such as, wages, or income for services performed; sales of products, livestock or crops may reduce weekly DUA payments,

### **Documentation**

Applicants must furnish proof of your 2010 earnings. A copy of the past year's federal income tax return or other substantial evidence of earnings is required. Failure to provide documentation will result in cancellation of the DUA claim and repayment of any previously paid benefits.

### **How long will the Payments Last?**

This disaster declaration allows for payments, if eligible, to be made for weeks beginning April 10, 2011.. The number of weeks eligible depends upon the period of time you suffered a loss or substantial reduction of employment or self-employment as a direct result of this disaster. You will be required to certify for each week. If you are able to return to your employment or self-employment, DUA payments will stop.

### **To File a Claim**

DUA applications must be filed with the Montana Department of Labor & Industry within 30 days following the date the program was announced. You must file a claim by September 2, 2011 be eligible.

If you believe you qualify, you can file a DUA application by calling the Helena Telephone Claims Center at (406) 444-3454 for claims filing assistance. If you don't have access to a telephone, you can use a telephone at a Job Service Workforce office. This number will be staffed by Disaster Unemployment agents and will not be able to respond to other unemployment claims.

**You will be required to furnish copies of your 2010 Federal Income tax return within 21 days of the date you filed your claim. Failure to provide documentation will result in a denial of your claim and repayment of any previously paid DUA benefits.**