

1. What is disaster unemployment assistance?

You may be able to get disaster unemployment assistance if you cannot work because of the Texas winter storm disaster. Under Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA 4586-DR) dated February 19, 2021, workers who lost their jobs and self-employed individuals who have been unable to work due to damage sustained from the February winter storm may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits. These payments will replace part of your lost income. You may be able to get these payments if you were working or scheduled to begin work.

2. Can I get help if I am self-employed?

Yes. If you cannot work because of the disaster, you may be able to get help even if you do not have an employer. You may be able to get these payments if you were self-employed or scheduled to begin self-employment.

3. What is the eligibility criteria?

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), which is an unemployment insurance benefit made available especially for victims of disaster, is available to individuals who:

- Have applied for and used all regular unemployment benefits, including Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) and Extended Benefits (EB), from any state, or do not qualify for unemployment benefits
- Worked or were self-employed or were scheduled to begin work or self-employment in the disaster area
- Can no longer work or perform services because of physical damage or destruction to the place of employment as a direct result of the disaster
- Establish that the work or self-employment they can no longer perform was their primary source of income
- Cannot perform work or self-employment because of an injury as a direct result of the disaster
- Became the breadwinner or major support of a household because of the death of the head of household, or
- Were unable to reach their job or self-employment location because they must travel through the affected area and are prevented from doing so by the disaster.

4. Is there a deadline to apply?

Yes. The deadline to apply is March 26, 2021.

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5. Do I have to live in the disaster area to get assistance?

Yes. As of March 3, 2021, you must live in one of these counties to get disaster assistance:

Anderson, Angelina, Aransas, Austin, Bastrop, Bee, Bell, Bexar, Bosque, Bowie, Blanco, Brazoria, Brazos, Brown, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Cherokee, Collin, Colorado, Comal, Comanche, Cooke, Coryell, Dallas, Denton, DeWitt, Ellis, Erath, Falls, Fannin, Fort Bend, Freestone, Galveston, Gillespie, Gonzalez, Grayson, Gregg, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Hays, Henderson, Hidalgo, Hill, Hood, Houston, Hunt, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jim Wells, Johnson, Jones, Kaufman, Kendall, Lavaca, Liberty, Limestone, Lubbock, Medina, Madison, Matagorda, Maverick, McLennan, Milam, Montague, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Navarro, Nueces, Orange, Palo Pinto, Panola, Parker, Polk, Rockwall, Rusk, Sabine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Scurry, Shelby, Smith, Stephens, Tarrant, Taylor, Tom Green, Travis, Tyler, Upshur, Val Verde, Van Zandt, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Washington, Wharton, Wichita, Williamson, Wilson, Wise and Wood.

Added: Atascosa, Bandera, Brooks, Duval, Eastland, Ector, Goliad, Howard, Jim Hogg, Karnes, Kleberg, Leon, Llano, Newton, Robertson, Trinity, Webb and Willacy.

6. How do I ask for help?

TWC Tele-Center between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. seven days a week at 1-800-939-6631.

You may also apply online at www.texasworkforce.org or ui.texasworkforce.org.

7. What information do I need when I call or apply online?

You must be ready to give this information:

- Specify that your application is related to the damage caused by severe storms
- Your social security number
- Your most recent income tax form or check stub
- Documents showing that you were working at the time of the disaster
- To receive DUA benefits, all required documentation must be submitted within 21 days from the day the DUA application is filed.

You can find more information online at:

www.twc.state.tx.us/ui/bnfts/disaster-unemployment-assistance.html

Disaster Legal Assistance Hotline: 1-800-504-7030

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