

# Applying for Unemployment

Register online at [esd.wa.gov](http://esd.wa.gov)



**Employment  
Security  
Department**  
WASHINGTON STATE



## What are unemployment benefits?

Unemployment benefits can help while you're unemployed. They replace some of your regular income and help you meet expenses while you look for a job. Benefits are not based on financial need.

## How do I apply for unemployment benefits?

Visit [www.esd.wa.gov](http://www.esd.wa.gov) from your computer, tablet, or smartphone to apply at any time.

## What if I don't have a computer?

You can apply for benefits over your smartphone or tablet or visit your nearest WorkSource Center or local library and use their computers for free.

You can also apply for unemployment by phone 800-318-6022, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., except on state holidays.

## What will I need when I apply?

You'll need:

- Your Social Security number.
- The business names, mailing addresses, phone numbers and dates you worked for all of your employers in the last 18 months, including part-time and temporary jobs.
- If you're not a US citizen, you will need your employment authorization number.

## What if I need an interpreter?

Call the claims center at 800-318-6022. Interpretive services are available at no cost to you.

## What if I have a disability?

If your disability prevents you from using the computer or phone, visit your local WorkSource center. WorkSource staff will help you apply for unemployment benefits and look for a job.

## What else do I need to do?

For each week you claim and want to receive unemployment benefits, you must meet all eligibility requirements. These include looking for work (unless we tell you otherwise) and writing down on a job-search log what you did to find a job. Each week, you must:

- Contact at least three employers;
- Participate in three approved job-search activities at your local WorkSource center; or
- Do a combination of employer contacts and approved activities, totaling three or more.

WorkSource centers have resources to help you find a job. Most services are free.

## For more information

Read the Handbook for Unemployed Workers at [esd.wa.gov/handbook](http://esd.wa.gov/handbook)

Learn how WorkSource can help at [worksourcewa.com](http://worksourcewa.com)