



## NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

### **Individuals Unemployed as a Direct Result of Flooding Receive Assistance**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Governor Dave Heineman announced today that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has amended the notice of a major disaster declaration for the State of Nebraska effective November 18, 2011, to include Thurston County, including the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and Iowa, for individual assistance for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA). DUA is available to eligible individuals as a result of a major disaster as declared by the President on August 12, 2011. The Nebraska Department of Labor will accept applications for DUA from individuals employed or self-employed in Thurston County, including the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and Iowa, whose employment or self-employment was lost or interrupted due to flooding between May 24 and August 1, 2011. **Applications for DUA for the new County included in the amendment must be filed within 30 days of this announcement. For the new County included in the amendment, the applications must be filed by December 19, 2011.**

To be eligible for DUA benefits under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-4013 - DR, individuals must meet all of the following criteria:

- Must be an unemployed or self-employed worker whose unemployment was caused as a direct result of the major disaster declared by the President; **and**
- Must be a U.S. national or a qualified alien; **and**
- Must not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits from any state; **and**
- Must have worked or been self-employed in, or were scheduled to begin work or self-employment in, one of the counties listed above; **and**
- Must establish that the work or self-employment they can no longer perform was their primary source of income.

Also eligible to apply for DUA are individuals who:

- Can no longer work or perform services as a self-employed person because of physical damage or destruction to the place of employment as a direct result of a disaster; **or**
- Cannot perform work or self-employment services because of an injury caused as a direct result of the disaster; **or**
- Became the breadwinner or major support of a household because of the death of the head of the household as a result of the natural disaster; **or**
- Cannot work or perform self-employment due to closure of a facility by the federal government.

To file for DUA, individuals will need their Social Security Number and the name and address of their last employer or prospective employer in the counties listed above. Applicants may be required to provide proof, within 21 days of filing their DUA claim, they were employed or self-employed in the counties listed above at the time the disaster occurred or were scheduled to begin (or resume) a job or self-employment when the disaster occurred. Individuals will need to provide proof of employment (pay stub, voucher, or earnings statement). Proof of Self-Employment may include federal income tax Form 1040; and Schedule C, F, or SE federal income tax returns for the most recent tax year; and proof of existence of the business.

Applications filed after December 19 will be considered NOT timely filed. Individuals may generally receive up to 26 weeks of DUA benefits as long as his/her unemployment continues to be a result of the disaster. Eligibility for DUA benefits will be determined on a week-to-week basis.

Individuals who may be eligible for assistance must file a claim by calling the Nebraska Claims Center (NCC) at 402-458-2500, Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM. The Interactive Phone System will ask “Are you filing for Disaster Unemployment Assistance?” By answering “Yes”, the applicant will be directed to a Claims Specialist who will provide assistance in filing a DUA claim. Applicants can expect longer wait times on Monday and Tuesday between 8:00 AM and 12:00 noon.

DUA benefits are federally funded and are not paid from the state unemployment compensation trust fund.

Additional information is available at [www.dol.nebraska.gov](http://www.dol.nebraska.gov).