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Nebraska Department of Labor Notifying Those Eligible for Latest Unemployment Benefit Extension

LINCOLN – Nebraskans who have exhausted their unemployment benefits could be immediately eligible for additional weeks of Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC).

The “Worker, Home Ownership and Business Assistance Act of 2009” changes the maximum number of weeks that a person with a Nebraska claim can collect EUC, by adding up to 14 weeks to their prior eligibility. The legislation was signed into law by President Obama and went into effect on Sunday, November 8, 2009.

The Nebraska Department of Labor will notify anyone eligible for the extension by mail which is anticipated to be completed within the next week.

Upon receiving a notification of eligibility for extended benefits, individuals must contact the Nebraska Claims Center at 402-458-2500 to reopen their claim. Application for EUC claims cannot be done through the internet.

As of October, approximately 3,518 Nebraskans exhausted their EUC benefits and will be immediately eligible for this unemployment benefit extension. As other Nebraskans exhaust their EUC benefits, they will also be notified by mail of the additional benefit available to them. The table below shows the approximate number of Nebraskans currently exhausted and those currently receiving EUC or regular unemployment insurance benefits.

Category of Recipient	Number of Claimants
Exhausted EUC	3,518
Receiving EUC	8,083
Receiving Regular UI	12,717

“The extension will assist Nebraskans as they seek employment,” said Catherine D. Lang, Commissioner of Labor. “Programming changes are necessary to our Benefit Payment System, and we ask that claimants be patient as we implement these changes. We want to assure claimants that they will receive all of the benefits for which they are eligible.”

Call volume at the Nebraska Claims Center is very high on Monday and Tuesday. To avoid long hold times, citizens are encouraged to call later in the week. Calling later in the week does not affect the timeliness of a benefit payment. The Nebraska Claims Center will be closed November 27th and 28th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

EUC is funded entirely by the federal extended unemployment compensation account, which means Nebraska employers’ reserve accounts are not charged for any EUC benefits paid to claimants.

Nebraska Department of Labor news releases are accessible on the Internet at:
dol.nebraska.gov

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