



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Nebraska Workforce Development – Department of Labor Announces Extended Unemployment Benefits

Second Extension Adds Up to Seven (7) More Weeks

LINCOLN - Beginning today, Nebraska unemployed workers who have been concerned their unemployment benefits would be exhausted will be eligible for additional extended unemployment benefits.

Friday, President George W. Bush signed an extension of jobless benefits into law extending unemployment benefit payments for a second time. Extended benefits are made available through the federal government during periods of high unemployment.

Up to seven (7) weeks of benefits, in addition to the current extension of benefits program that provides up to thirteen (13) weeks, will be available to claimants in all states, for up to a total of twenty (20) weeks. The benefit amount payable in an individual's account will be 80% of the total amount of regular compensation or 20 times the individual's average regular weekly benefit amount for a week of total unemployment. No individual would be entitled to more than 20 weeks of total eligibility.

In states with high unemployment (over 6%), up to thirteen (13) weeks will be added. Those states in our Region that are currently in this category are IL, IN, MI, MN, MO and OH. "Nebraska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the month of September was 3.5%. Therefore, Nebraska is not eligible for this next tier of extended benefits", said Commissioner Lang. The state unemployment rate is released the last day of each month.

Commissioner of Labor, Catherine D. Lang said, "We will be providing written notification to those individuals who have previously exhausted an extended benefit claim."

Claimants who have an open claim and are currently receiving extended unemployment benefits need to continue claiming their weekly benefits. Upon receipt of a notification of potential eligibility for extended benefit claims, individuals can contact the Nebraska Claims Center at 402-458-2500 to re-open their claim.

The Nebraska Claims Center will be closed November 27th and 28th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Nebraska Workforce Development – Department of Labor news release are accessible on the Internet at:

NebraskaWorkforce.com

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