



Potential Federal Government Shutdown Frequently Asked Questions for Utah Unemployment

1. When should I file my Unemployment claim if I am furloughed due to the government shutdown?

Past experience has shown that some budgets are passed after funding has expired, but before the new work week begins, which would make filing for unemployment unnecessary.

The best advice is to wait until there is a furlough-related interruption in your regularly scheduled work week before filing for unemployment benefits. In other words, **wait until your first missed day of regularly scheduled work before filing.**

2. I am a federal employee who is temporarily furloughed due to the government shutdown. Am I eligible for unemployment benefits?

Yes, you should be eligible for unemployment benefits — assuming you meet other [eligibility requirements](#). As a general rule, the Unemployment Insurance program considers federal employees who are furloughed during a government shutdown as, “unemployed through no fault of your own and available to return to work.” Keep in mind: *Eligibility is decided on a case-by-case basis. Anyone has a right to file an application for benefits and file a weekly claim. The Unemployment Insurance Division will then determine application eligibility.*

There is no benefit of filing on the Saturday funding expires. After the furlough starts, workers have until the end of their normal workweek to get the claim on file and begin processing.

3. As a federal employee, am I required to supply 18 months of pay stubs or an SF-8/SF-50 to file an unemployment claim?

Providing your pay stubs or federal separation documents like SF-8/SF-50 will help us process your claim faster. Due to the government shutdown, it might be hard for us to confirm your earnings from your federal job. This could slow down the processing of your claim. However, you don't have to submit these documents when you first file your claim.

To speed up the process, gather and upload the last pay stub for the following months and years. You might not be able to access these stubs during the shutdown.

- First pay stub of October 2024 and last pay stub of December 2024
- First pay stub of January 2025 and last pay stub of March 2025
- First pay stub of April 2025 and last pay stub of June 2025
- First pay stub of July 2025 and last pay stub of Sept. 2025
- First pay stub of October 2025 and last pay stub of December 2025

You can upload any proof of earnings or the SF-8/SF-50 forms on the [Upload a File](#) page on our website.

4. I am required to keep working full time during the shutdown without pay. Am I eligible for unemployment benefits?

If you are an essential worker and you are working full time without pay, file your claim and we will review your application. We will make a determination based on your situation and claim details. Remember to report if you worked and any wages you earned even if you have not been paid, yet. We will let you know if you are eligible as soon as possible.

5. Should I apply for unemployment benefits by phone or on the website?

In most cases, it will be faster to file your [initial application](#) and a [weekly claim](#) on our website. You can file on your smartphone, if you don't have access to a computer.

6. Will federal employees who are furloughed during the government shutdown be obligated to repay unemployment insurance if they receive back pay for the weeks they were furloughed?

Yes, if you were getting unemployment insurance while the government was shut down and then you get back pay from your employer for those weeks later on, you will have to pay back the unemployment insurance benefit. This is because unemployment insurance is meant to help people who are temporarily out of work and eligible for benefits. When you get back pay for the time you were not working, it's like getting paid for those weeks, so you are expected to return the unemployment insurance funds. It's important for federal workers affected by these requirements to know about these rules and figure out the best way to pay back the money if they need to.

7. The claim application mentions a job search requirement. Do I have to search for a job while furloughed?

No. Federal employees who are out of work as a result of the federal government shutdown are considered "job-attached" and do not need to do a job search during the furlough. When filing a claim, mark that you are "job-attached" and request a 10-week deferral.

8. When I apply online, it does not list my federal employer's name or wages. Do I qualify?

Federal employers don't report employment data to the Unemployment Insurance program. This is why you do not see your employer listed. When filing your claim, answer that you have "other" work and look up the federal employer's name and add it to your claim. After you've added the federal employer and filed your claim, we'll reach out to your employer to get your work info and calculate your benefit amounts (see **QUESTION 3** for more information on wage reporting and possible impacts and delays in claim processing times).