

2019 Partial Federal Government Shutdown Frequently Asked Questions for Utah Unemployment Benefits

1. I am temporarily furloughed due to the government shutdown. Am I eligible for unemployment benefits?

As a general rule, if you are unemployed through no fault of your own and are able to return to work when available, you should be eligible for unemployment benefits — assuming you meet other [eligibility requirements](#).

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 division must then determine application eligibility.*

2. I am working full time during the shutdown and not getting paid. Am I eligible for unemployment benefits?

When filing a weekly claim, you are still required to report work and gross wages when it is earned, even if you will not be paid during that same week. You may not be eligible for benefits because you still earn too much in a week.

3. 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](#) online.

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

Federal employees who are separated as a result of the federal government shutdown are considered job-attached and will not be required to conduct a job search during the furlough. When filing a claim, mark that you are job-attached and request a 10-week deferral.

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

Federal employers do not report employment data to the Unemployment Insurance program. We have to request that information from the agency you worked at in order to calculate your benefit amounts. To add your federal employer, you must answer that you have other work and look up the federal employer name to add it to your claim. Once the employer is added and the claim is filed, we will be able to request the employment information from your employer.

6. Am I required to supply 18 months of pay stubs or an SF-8/SF-50?

You are not required to send in pay stubs or federal separation documents when filing for your claim initially. However, supplying pay stubs could potentially process the monetary eligibility portion of your application faster.

7. What happens if I receive back pay after the federal shutdown has ended?

If Congress reaches an agreement that includes back pay for furloughed time, federal workers will be responsible for paying back any unemployment benefits received during that time.