

# Texas Workforce Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** June 14, 2016

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Lisa Givens

**PHONE:** 512-463-8556

## **Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available for May Storms**

*Workers affected in 12 Texas counties may now apply for assistance*

AUSTIN – Victims affected by severe storms and flooding, which began on May 26, 2016 and continued over several weeks, may now apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) in 12 counties as a result of the Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA 4272-DR). Workers who lost their jobs and self-employed individuals who have been unable to work due to the storms and flooding in the following counties may apply for DUA and applications must be submitted by July 14, 2016:

- Austin, Brazoria, Brazos, Fort Bend, Grimes, Hidalgo, Hood, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Travis, Waller and Washington

Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) website contains more information about [Disaster Unemployment Assistance](#). Individual Assistance provides affected residents and businesses access to federal disaster aid programs including unemployment benefits for workers who temporarily lost their jobs because of the disaster or self-employed individuals.

Individuals affected by the severe storms in these counties can apply for benefits online through [Unemployment Benefit Services](#) or by calling a TWC Tele-Center, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 800-939-6631. Individuals should specify that their applications are related to the damage caused by severe storms and flooding in one of the counties listed in the disaster declaration. In these designated areas, affected individuals can find the nearest FEMA DRC by entering their zip code in the [Disaster Recovery Center Locator](#).

The deadline for DUA benefit applications for the April storms covered by FEMA-4269-DR have expired.

Applications for DUA filed after the July deadlines will be considered untimely, unless the individual provides good cause for applying late.

DUA, which is unemployment insurance benefits made available especially for victims of disaster, is available to individuals who:

- Have applied for and used all regular unemployment benefits from any state, or do not qualify for unemployment benefits
- Worked or were self-employed or were scheduled to begin work or self-employment in the disaster area
- Can no longer work or perform services because of physical damage or destruction to the place of employment as a direct result of the disaster
- Establish that the work or self-employment they can no longer perform was their primary source of income
- Cannot perform work or self-employment because of an injury as a direct result of the disaster
- Became the breadwinner or major support of a household because of the death of the head of household

**-more-**

To receive DUA benefits, all required documentation must be mailed or faxed within 21 days from the day the DUA application is filed. Required documentation includes Social Security number, a copy of the most recent federal income tax form or check stubs, or documentation to support that affected individuals were working or self-employed when the disaster occurred.

Send documentation to: Texas Workforce Commission, UI Support Services Department, Attn: DUA, 101 E. 15th St., Room 354, Austin, TX, 78778-0001, or fax it to 512-936-3250.

Job seekers may visit or contact Texas Workforce Solutions offices for access to job-search resources, job postings and training programs, as well as assistance with exploring career options, resume and application preparation, career development and more. Customers may also connect with potential employers through TWC's online job-search website at [WorkinTexas.com](http://WorkinTexas.com).

###dhp

*The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the services it offers in coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call 512-463-8942 or visit [www.texasworkforce.org](http://www.texasworkforce.org). To receive notifications about TWC programs and services subscribe to our [email updates](#).*