



June 7, 2019

Important information regarding Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) Benefits For Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands Residents

Individuals that may have relocated to Connecticut from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands following Hurricanes Irma and Maria may be eligible for a 26-week extension of Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits. The following provides information regarding eligibility and filing.

What: The Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law No. 115-254)

Enacted October 5, 2018, this law extends the duration of DUA for individuals unemployed as a direct result of the major disasters due to Hurricanes Irma and Maria in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For purposes of these major disasters in these two territories, the law extends the number of weeks in the disaster assistance period from 26 weeks to 52 weeks after the date of the disaster declaration.

Who: Individuals in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as individuals who have relocated to other states.

The following individuals are potentially eligible:

- Individuals who exhausted DUA;
- Individuals who exhausted regular Unemployment Insurance (UI), even if they did not apply for DUA during the original DAP;
- Individuals who had a lapse in continued claim filing, if the reason for the lapse is not disqualifying; and
- Individuals who never applied for DUA (for reasons other than collecting regular UI during the original DAP) if they can show good cause for the late filing.

How: Filing for extended Disaster Unemployment Assistance

Puerto Rico:

Claimants can contact the Puerto Rico Department of Labor by email Pesteves@trabajo.pr.gov or Kvallejo@trabajo.pr.gov or by phone at **(787) 945-7898 extension 2218 through 2226**, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Visit <https://www.trabajo.pr.gov/> for information on filing for extended DUA benefits. The deadline for filing for extended DUA in Puerto Rico has been extended to **June 24, 2019.**

U.S. Virgin Islands:

Claimants who no longer live in the Virgin Islands can contact the Virgin Islands Department of Labor (VIDOL) at **(340) 715-5712** Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. VIDOL is updating its website at <http://www.vidol.gov/unemployment-insurance/> with information on filing for extended DUA benefits. The Virgin Islands has been approved for a 71-day extension to the filing deadline for retroactive DUA claims filed. **The new deadline is July 31, 2019.**