



CTDOL Offers Eligibility Guidelines to Federal Employees Seeking Unemployment Benefits

WETHERSFIELD, January 3, 2019 – In response to unemployment insurance questions from federal employees affected by the federal government shutdown, the Connecticut Department of Labor (CTDOL) offers the following guidelines to assist federal employees and employers:

- Federal employees affected by the federal government shutdown can file for unemployment benefits if they are on *furlough*.
- Federal employees that are *required to work* during the shutdown, but are *not getting paid*, are not eligible to file for unemployment.
- For federal employees eligible to file for unemployment insurance, federal claims are usually filed with the state where federal wages are assigned. For example, if a federal employee has their residence in California, but their current job is in Connecticut, they typically will file with the State of Connecticut. In comparison, a federal employee with their residence in Connecticut, but a current job in California typically will file with the State of California.
- New unemployment insurance claims for Connecticut must be filed online at www.filectui.com.

“Although much of our agency is federally funded, fortunately, Connecticut Department of Labor employees are not affected by the shutdown,” said State Labor Commissioner Kurt Westby. “As a result, any claimant currently collecting unemployment benefits in Connecticut is not impacted by the shutdown and will continue to receive payments.”

Westby noted that unlike public and private employers, federal employers do not report wage information to state labor departments. Therefore, when CTDOL employees receive a claim application from a federal employee, they must request separation information from the federal employer for employee eligibility, and wage information to determine the weekly benefit amount.

“During this difficult time for families affected by the federal shutdown, we will be doing our very best to assist those federal employees eligible to collect unemployment benefits,” Westby said. “At the same time, we must ensure compliance with federal guidelines. In light of the federal shutdown, it is anticipated that some federal agencies will not be available to respond to our requests for required information. Although request forms are always sent to the federal employer and an affidavit to the federal employee, if CTDOL is unable to contact a federal employer, we will use the employee affidavit to process the claim. In these cases, employees will need to ensure their affidavits are accompanied by supporting documents that show wage history.”

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