



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

**GOVERNOR DANIEL P. MALLOY**

**GOV. MALLOY: RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY TROPICAL STORM IRENE MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE**

(HARTFORD, CT) – Governor Dannel P. Malloy today announced that because a major disaster was declared by President Obama in the State of Connecticut due to Tropical Storm Irene, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is available to residents of all eight Connecticut counties, including self-employed individuals, who are unemployed as a direct result of damages caused by the storm.

Individuals eligible for DUA benefits are those who work or live in one of the federally declared counties and lost their jobs directly due to the disaster. Those eligible may also include:

- Individuals unable to reach their job because they must travel through the affected area and are prevented by doing so by the disaster.
- Individuals who were to commence employment but were prevented by the disaster.
- Individuals who became the major support for a household because of the death of the head of the household as a result of the disaster.
- Individuals who cannot work because of an injury caused as a direct result of the disaster.

The DUA program is a part of the federal disaster assistance process but is administered by the Connecticut Department of Labor. Before an individual can be determined eligible for DUA, it must be established by the Department of Labor that the individual is otherwise not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits under any state or federal law.

Residents who lost their jobs due to this disaster should file a claim with their local TeleBenefits line, which can be found in the blue pages of telephone directories, on the Department of Labor's website at <http://www.ct.gov/dol>, or by dialing the state Infoline at 2-1-1.

Under federal guidelines, the deadline for filing for DUA benefits is October 6, 2011. Claims filed after the deadline may be ineligible for payment.

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