

Oklahoma Severe Storms and Tornadoes DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

President Obama issued a major disaster declaration for Oklahoma on May 20, 2013, in response to severe storms and tornadoes. This declaration provides for individual assistance, which includes Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA).

DUA provides financial assistance to individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster declared by the President of the United States and who are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits.

Individuals, including self-employed individuals, who were living or working in the affected areas at the time of the major disaster, and who are unemployed as a direct result of these severe storms and tornadoes, may be eligible for DUA. In addition, those who are unable to reach their job, because the disaster prevented their travel, or who were scheduled to begin employment, but the disaster prevented them from doing so, may apply.

DUA is available to individuals for weeks of unemployment beginning after the date the major disaster began and for up to 26 weeks after the major disaster was declared by the President, as long as their unemployment continues to be a result of the major disaster.

Individuals in Cleveland, Lincoln, McClain, Oklahoma and Pottawatomie counties, who lost work or earnings directly due to the severe storms and tornadoes, have until the close of business on June 21, 2013, to apply for DUA.

Impacted individuals may contact the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission Unemployment Insurance Service Center at 1-800-555-1554 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., to begin the claim process.

Additional information on filing for DUA in Oklahoma can be located at http://www.ok.gov/oesc_web/Services/Unemployment_Insurance/DUA.html.

Individuals may also obtain information by calling the Department of Labor's toll-free number at 1-877-US-2JOBS (1-877-872-5627) or visiting www.servicelocator.org to find an office near you.

Additional information on other federal and state administered benefit programs can be obtained at www.benefits.gov or at the www.fema.gov.