



PUBLIC NOTICE DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

The Bureau of Employment Security of the Puerto Rico Department of Labor and Human Resources is responsible for managing Section 410 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, which provides economic aid to those unemployed as consequence of a major natural disaster. The Unemployment Insurance (UI) Program of the Bureau announces the availability of funds for the benefit of those unemployed as a direct consequence of Severe Storm, Flooding and Landslides occurred on February 4, 5 and 6, 2022, in the municipalities declared disaster areas of Cataño, Dorado, Toa Baja Vega Alta and Vega Baja.

The definition for "being unemployed" as a direct result of the disaster is:

1. The physical damage or destruction of the place of employment;
2. The physical inaccessibility of the place of employment due to its closure by the federal, state or local municipal government in immediate response to the disaster; or
3. Lack of work, or loss of revenues, if prior to the disaster, the employer or self-employed received at least a majority of its revenue or income from entities in the major disaster area closed by the federal, state, or local government.

Any worker or employer who has become unemployed as a result of the disaster may claim assistance as established in 20 CFR 625.17; if you meet any of the following eligibility requirements:

1. You were working for someone else or self-employed in the disaster area when the disaster occurred, lost your job, and your place of work has been affected or you are unable to get to your place of work as a result of the damage caused;
2. You lived in the area of the disaster when the disaster occurred and you are unable to get to your workplace as a result of the damage caused;
3. You were going to start working for someone else, or at your own job, in the disaster area when the disaster occurred, and you are unable to start as a result of the damage caused;
4. You cannot work with another person or in self-employment who resides within the affected area, due to injuries or illnesses caused directly by the disaster. You will be eligible as long as you are unable to accept suitable work due to this illness or disability;
5. You have become the head of the family and are now in the job market because the head of the family died as a result of the disaster that occurred in the affected area;
6. You worked for an employer or were self-employed and your higher income or earnings came from an entity or client that was damaged, destroyed, or closed by the state, federal, or local government as a result of the disaster;



7. Due to any other reason, if the Unemployment Insurance Program considers you to be unemployed as a result of the disaster in the included municipalities.

ELIGIBLE MUNICIPALITIES:

CATAÑO, DORADO, TOA BAJA VEGA ALTA Y VEGA BAJA

Any person within the definition of "being unemployed" who is within the above circumstances, may file their claim at the local office of the Employment Security Bureau of the Department of Labor and Human Resources closest to their place of residence or by calling our Call Center located in San Juan, at 787-945-7900, Monday through Friday, from 7:30am to 5:00pm. To receive DUA benefits, all required documentation must be submitted to Department of Labor and Human Resources within 21 days from the date the DUA application is filed. Required documentation for self-employed individuals includes your Social Security number, a copy of your most recent federal income tax return for 2021, check stubs, and/or documentation to support you are working or self-employed when the disaster occurred.

You must file your claim for DUA benefits by June 6, 2022. DUA claims filed after this deadline may be ineligible for payment.