

Puerto Rico Disaster Unemployment Assistance

The Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, Public Law No. 115-254 was enacted on October 5, 2018, extending the duration of Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) for individuals unemployed as a direct result of the major disasters that were declared due to Hurricanes Irma and Maria in Puerto Rico. This law extends, for purposes of these major disasters in this territory, the number of weeks in the disaster assistance period (DAP) from 26 weeks to 52 weeks after the date of the disaster declaration.

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.

To file for extended DUA in Puerto Rico, interstate claimants should contact the Puerto Rico Department of Labor at (787) 945-7898, Monday through Friday, from 8:00am to 4:30pm. Visit <https://www.trabajo.pr.gov/> for information on filing for extended DUA benefits. The deadline for filing for extended DUA in Puerto Rico was extended to **May 24, 2019**.