



Press Release

North Carolina Division of Employment Security

Lockhart Taylor, Assistant Secretary

For More Information, Contact:
Larry Parker/919.707.1010

For Immediate Release
September 18, 2018

Ten More Counties Declared for Disaster Unemployment Assistance

RALEIGH — The Division of Employment Security (DES) has announced that the following counties have been approved for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) due to the effects of Hurricane Florence: Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, Harnett, Lenoir, Jones, Robeson, Sampson, and Wayne. Additional counties may be added to the DUA availability designation at a later date.

Individuals from these counties who are affected by the disaster, and are unable to continue working, must file an application for benefits within **30 days** from today – or, by October 18, 2018.

Workers who became unemployed as a direct result of the effects of Hurricane Florence impacting North Carolina, may be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits under the DUA program. Business owners affected by the storm may also qualify for benefits.

Workers or business owners meeting the following criteria may be eligible for benefits:

- Individuals who are unemployed due to the disaster, and do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits.
- Self-employed individuals and small business owners who lost income due to the disaster.
- Individuals who were prevented from working due to an injury caused by the disaster.
- Individuals who have become the major supplier of household income due to the disaster-related death of the previous major supplier of household income.
- Individuals who are unable to reach their jobs or self-employment locations, because they must travel through the affected area and are prevented from doing so by the disaster.
- Individuals who were to commence employment or self-employment, but were prevented from doing so by the disaster.

DUA is funded entirely by the federal government. Individuals need to file first for regular unemployment insurance. If an individual is determined ineligible for regular unemployment insurance, or has exhausted their regular unemployment insurance benefits, a DUA claim can then be filed. Individuals will need their Social Security number, copies of their most recent federal income tax forms or check stubs, or documentation to support they were working or self-employed when the disaster occurred. To receive DUA benefits, all required documentation must be submitted within 21 days from the day the DUA application is filed.

— *More* —

This information may be accessed on the DES website, at <http://des.nc.gov>

DUA is available for weeks of employment beginning with the week starting September 9, 2018, and may last for up to 27 weeks, as long as the claimant's unemployment continues to be as a result of Hurricane Florence.

Individuals may contact DES by calling 1-866-795-8877 from 8AM to 5PM to apply for DUA benefits. If you have additional questions, you may email DES at des.dua@nccommerce.com or go to our website at des.nc.gov.

For an updated list of counties that have been approved, please visit the News and Highlights section at des.nc.gov.

###