



## Help for People Affected by Hurricane Sandy In October 2012

**As a result of Hurricane Sandy, Governor Cuomo declared a disaster emergency for all of New York State. The New York State Department of Labor (DOL) will offer relief to those affected by this disaster.**

The Governor's declaration gives you more time to:

- Pay employer unemployment insurance (UI) contributions,
- Repay UI benefits, and
- Act on other UI matters.

This notice applies to people and employers in New York who were affected by Hurricane Sandy. The Department of Labor will:

- Temporarily suspend action to collect money you owe, and
- Extend deadlines for you to request hearings or take any other action on your UI account.

You do **not** need to apply for an extension. If you have a payment due, need to request a hearing, or must respond to a notice between October 26 and November 26, 2012, your new due date is November 26, 2012.

### **Deadlines**

If you received a UI notice with a deadline between October 26 and November 26, 2012, your new deadline is November 26, 2012. **When you respond to the notice, write "Hurricane Sandy" at the top.**

### **Old Issues**

If you received a UI notice with a deadline prior to October 26, 2012, the deadline will **not** be extended.

### **Special Notice Regarding Employer Contribution Filings**

The Quarterly Combined Withholding, Wage Reporting, and Unemployment Insurance Return (NYS-45) filing and payment date was extended. The NYS-45, due on October 31, 2012, is now due November 26, 2012.

Employers should follow the instructions in the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Announcement Regarding Hurricane Sandy (N-12-11): [http://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/notices/n12\\_11.pdf](http://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/notices/n12_11.pdf).

### **Disaster Unemployment Assistance**

President Obama declared some counties in New York State federal disaster areas. This allows the Department of Labor to provide special Disaster Unemployment Assistance. You may be able to get benefits if you live, work, own a business, or operate a farm in the following counties:

- Bronx
- Kings
- Nassau
- New York
- Orange
- Putnam
- Richmond
- Queens
- Suffolk
- Sullivan
- Rockland
- Ulster
- Westchester

Please check the DOL website for more information about Disaster Unemployment Assistance:  
[www.labor.ny.gov](http://www.labor.ny.gov).

### **Special Notice Regarding Employer Audits**

If you received a notice of audit and you are located in one of the disaster areas listed above, have business operations in those counties, or have records maintained there, the Department may grant additional time to comply. Additional time will be granted on a case-by-case basis. Please telephone the office that contacted you and arrange to re-schedule your appointment.

### **Claimant Extension Date**

Many Unemployment Insurance claimants may be unable to certify for their weekly benefits due to the loss of power and phone service. The Department of Labor will extend the date of certification of unemployment benefits for people impacted by Hurricane Sandy. People who need this extension should call **1-888-209-8124** as soon as possible and speak to an agent to receive benefits for the prior week. Those unable to access a phone may visit any of New York State Career Centers for assistance.

### **Weekly Certification**

The Department of Labor will extend the date of certification of unemployment benefits for people impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Claimants should call **1-888-209-8124** as soon as possible and speak to an agent to receive benefits for the prior week.

### **Where to Call**

For employer payment plans or collections: 1-800-456-1015

For UI benefit repayments or notices of Treasury Offset: 1-800-533-6600

For hearing requests, call the number on the letter that you received.

For extensions to certify for UI benefits: 1-888-209-8124

### **Further Updates**

Additional information regarding time periods, affected counties, and types of relief will be made available on the DOL website: [www.labor.ny.gov](http://www.labor.ny.gov).