

Unemployment Compensation Benefits Exhaustion Tip Sheet

Background

The maximum duration of unemployment compensation benefits in Pennsylvania is 79 weeks. This is broken down as follows: **26** weeks of regular UC, **33** weeks of federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) and **20** weeks of state Extended Benefits (EB).

As of Sept. 20, 2009, the first large wave of claimants will have exhausted all of the UC benefits available to them. These claimants will be in need of help identifying what other assistance may be available to them.

People who have, or are about to, exhaust UC benefits can go online at www.heretohelp.pa.gov for information on what services are available not only through the Department of Labor and Industry, but through other Commonwealth agencies as well.

Talking points to use when assisting people who have run out of UC benefits:

- The Department of Labor and Industry's number one priority is the reemployment of unemployed Pennsylvanians.
- In these tough economic times, it is important to be familiar with the valuable services available through PA CareerLink[®].
- PA CareerLink[®] is a free, easy-to-use resource designed to meet the education, training and reemployment needs of job seekers.
- You can use PA CareerLink[®] to look for a job, or find a new career path, in some of Pennsylvania's most important industries, including health care, education, energy and more.
- There are 67 PA CareerLink[®] offices statewide. You do not need an appointment to use PA CareerLink[®] services.
- At PA CareerLink[®], you can:
 - View the latest job openings;
 - Get help with career assessment and planning;
 - Get free computer use;
 - Connect with job training programs;
 - Develop your resume and polish interviewing skills;
 - Find out about job fairs, workshops and other events in your area; and
 - Find out about financial aid options in education.
- For these and other services, or to get the address of your local PA CareerLink[®] office, go online at www.heretohelp.pa.gov, or call 1-866-858-2753.

- Programs offered through the PA Department of Public Welfare are also available to assist unemployed workers and their families during their efforts to reenter the workforce. Through DPW, you can apply for:
 - Temporary cash assistance
 - Medical assistance
 - Food Stamps, through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP
- The fastest way to apply for benefits is through COMPASS – Pennsylvania’s online application system

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