

Federal Extended Benefits (EUC) FAQs

Q. When does EUC end?

A. Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) Program to expire on December 28, 2013. As of this date, Congress has not taken action to extend EUC benefits. Some Congressional leaders have stated that they will attempt to reinstate EUC benefits upon their return to session in January. No additional benefits will be paid at this time.

Q. Do you think Congress will extend EUC again?

A. We don't know. If Congress votes to continue the program, VDOL will post notification about the EUC program extension and applicable criteria on the Vermont Department of Labor website at [.](#)

Q. If I was filing and receiving EUC when it ended and I still have a remaining balance, what should I do?

A. No additional EUC benefits will be paid for any weeks after the week ending December 28, 2013. If EUC is reinstated and retroactively applied, and you have filed your weekly claims and have done your job searches, you may be able to receive an expedited payment of benefits for those weeks. If you choose to wait and file when and if an extension is passed, you will be asked to report your work search efforts and certify your eligibility for each week you request a benefit. If you opt to continue to file weekly claims for EUC you MUST:

- File for weeks in which you request a benefit;
- Continue your work search efforts and;
- Make, document, and report your work search efforts when filing

You may continue to file weekly claims in the event that Congress extends the program. You must also continue to look for work and report your work searches when filing. If you choose to wait to file, please check www.labor.vermont.gov for updates regarding the EUC program regularly. You can also call the Claimant Assistance line, toll free at 877-214-3332 if you have other questions.

Q. If I exhausted Regular state benefits and have no other unemployment eligibility, what should I do?

A. If you are unemployed, you may likely need assistance with your resume, interview skills, identifying job openings, and job placement. The Department of Labor's regional Career Resource Centers provide Vermonters with free, professional assistance, matching job seekers with job openings.

You may be potentially eligible for EUC if Congress extends the program. In order to expedite this eligibility, you will need to have attended a EUC orientation at your local Vermont Department of Labor (VDOL) Resource Center or completed and returned a EUC orientation packet sent to you if residing out of state. You also will need to have done your job searches and documented them for review by the department. If an extension is passed, and you apply for EUC benefits, you will be asked to report your work search efforts and certify your eligibility for each week you request a benefit. You can also call the Claimant Assistance line, toll free at 877-214-3332 if you have other

questions.

Q. What is Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC)?

A. EUC is a federal extension that provides additional weeks of unemployment benefits after you have run out of “regular unemployment benefits.” The U.S. Congress activated the program in July 2008 in response to the severity of the Great Recession.

Q. May I receive Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA) after EUC shuts off?

A. Yes, as long as you are still in approved training. If you have questions, please call 877-214-3332.

Q. Do I have to participate in training or re-employment services provided by the Resource Center?

A. Yes. If you are receiving Unemployment Compensation benefits under any UI program, you are REQUIRED to participate when the Department schedules you for an appointment, assessment, training, or services they determine will help you become employed,

Q. Does the state offer any other program to provide income support until I find work?

A. If you don't qualify for Trade Readjustment Allowance, there are no other income-support programs available through the Vermont Department of Labor. It's possible you qualify for social services through the Department of Economic Services. If you need assistance with housing, food, healthcare or other basic needs, dial 211 (or visit www.Vermont211.org) for more information.

Q. I'm an employer. How does EUC affect my experience rating and benefit charges?

A. EUC does not affect your experience rating or benefit charges. It was 100 percent federally funded. If you are a reimbursable employer, you will not be billed.

Last Updated: December 26, 2013

State Extended Benefits (EB) FAQ's

Q. Given Vermont has triggered “off” EB, what is the last week EB payments will be made?

A. Vermont's EB period ended on July 10, 2010. The last payable EB week is for week ending July 10, 2010.

NOTE: The following questions and answers only apply when Vermont is in an EB period and paying EB benefits.

Q. How long can a claimant collect EB?

A. Individuals who qualify for EB, will get the lesser of:

- Thirteen (13) times your benefit rate, or;
- Fifty percent (50%) of your regular total benefits

Individuals will be sent an EB monetary determination, which will show exact benefit entitlement. Although an individual could potentially collect the maximum amount, this is not guaranteed as EB could end if the state triggers off an extended benefit period - OR - in the event the individual becomes eligible for Regular benefits.

Q. How long will Vermont pay Extended Benefits?

A. Customers will be advised when the State Extended Benefit program is scheduled to trigger off; this is dependent upon the State Unemployment Rate falling below established regulations as set in state law.

Q. What happens if EB ends and I still have money left on my claim?

A. Once the EB period ends, we cannot pay any further benefits, even if an individual has credits remaining.

Q. What are State Extended Benefits (EB)?

A. State Extended Benefits are additional unemployment insurance benefits that are available during periods of high unemployment in the state. Absent another Federal extension, EB will be the last unemployment benefit program available to you.

Q. When does the EB program start?

A. Vermont triggered on to EB on March 22, 2009. The first potential week EB can be paid to eligible individuals is after he/she exhausts their Regular and Emergency Unemployment Compensations (EUC) benefits.

Q. How do I qualify for EB?

A. You are potentially eligible for EB if you have a valid Vermont unemployment claim and:

- You have exhausted all regular and EUC unemployment benefits
- The total wages on that BYE claim are more than 1 ½ times your highest quarter of earnings, OR
- You have 20 weeks of full-time covered employment in the base period, which was used to establish your claim, AND
- You are not eligible for any other claim with this or any other state, AND
- You are not eligible for any other Federal Unemployment Program, AND
- You meet all other eligibility requirements

Q. Does EB have special disqualifications?

A. Yes - Failure to meet the EB work search requirements or to accept suitable work in any given week will result in a disqualification of EB benefits until you have worked in at least four (4) weeks and have earned wages at least equal to six (6) times your weekly benefit amount. The EB federal

law further states if a claimant has had a previous voluntary health leaving , conviction or misconduct separation during the EB benefit year, the claimant must perform work and earn four (4) times his or her weekly benefit amount before EB can be paid. This means, in some cases EB benefits will not be paid if work has not been performed since the voluntary health or misconduct separation occurred.

Q. How and when do I apply for EB?

A. Shortly before exhausting your current benefit program, you will receive a notice in the mail directing you to contact the Resource Center to attend an orientation if you want to continue receiving unemployment benefits. Read the notice you receive carefully as it will provide instructions you MUST follow.

Q. How will I receive my EB Payments?

A. Unless you have requested and have been approved for a waiver to file paper claims, you will be required to file your weekly claims and work search documentation on-line. Our telephone weekly claims line can NOT be used to file EB claims. If you need assistance with filing on-line, we have developed a hand out for your reference. A VDOL representative at one of our Resource Centers can also assist you with this process. The application is fast and easy and can be accessed by clicking “File An Unemployment Claim” at <http://www.labor.vermont.gov>. You will receive payments by the same method you have in the past (direct deposit or paper checks) – provided you meet all eligibility requirements.

Q. Why didn't I receive my full weekly rate the week before my EB began?

A. Before you can be paid EB, you must exhaust your other benefit balance. In many cases, your remaining benefit balance will not be the full amount of your weekly rate.

Q. What if I have lost my check?

A. Contact 1-877-214-3332 and request an Affidavit for a Missing Check to be sent to you. Participating in our Direct Deposit program avoids loss of checks in the mail – AND – enables you to get your benefit payment sooner. You may enroll in direct deposit at any time through our on-line Claimant Application portal or by calling the weekly claims line at 1-800-983-2300,

Q. What if my bank account number has changed?

A. Changes to your direct deposit can be made through our on-line Claimant Application, by calling our weekly claims line at 1-800-983-2300 or by calling the Claimant Assistance line at 1-877-2-4-3332.

Q. How much will I receive on EB?

A. Your weekly EB rate is the same rate as your regular weekly benefit rate.

Q. How long can I collect EB?

A. If you qualify for EB, you will get the lesser of:

- Thirteen (13) times your benefit rate, or;
- Fifty percent (50%) of your regular total benefits

You will be sent an EB monetary determination, which will show your exact benefits. Although you could potentially collect the maximum amount, this is not guaranteed as EB could end if the state triggers off an extended benefit period - OR - in the event you become eligible for Regular benefits.

Q. How long will Vermont pay Extended Benefits?

A. Customers will be advised when the State Extended Benefit program is scheduled to trigger off; this is dependent upon the State Unemployment Rate falling below established regulations as set in state law.

Q. What happens if EB ends and I still have money left on my claim?

A. Once the EB period ends, we cannot pay any further benefits, even if an individual has credits remaining.

Q. I applied for EB and the monetary statement issued to me indicated I was not eligible. Why don't I qualify? I disagree with this statement, what can I do?

A. You may receive a monetary determination that you are not eligible. The reasons for ineligibility include:

- Your benefit year ended before the EB trigger on date, OR
- The total base period wages on your claim are less than 1½ times your highest quarter of base period earnings, OR
- You do not have 20 weeks of full-time covered employment in the base period of your claim.

You may file an appeal if you disagree. An appeal is a written disagreement with our decision. Send your written appeal within thirty (30) calendar days of the notice date to: The Vermont Department of Labor, P.O. Box 488, Montpelier, VT 05601 or Labor.Appeals@vermont.gov.

Q. Are Extended Benefits taxable?

A. Yes, Extended Benefits are taxable. Whatever your previous tax withholding election was will remain in effect unless you contact the Claimant Assistance line at 1-877-214-3332.

Q. I was on Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC). Will I be automatically filed for the State Extended Benefits?

A. It's possible, but no EB benefits can be paid until you have completed your orientation. This notice will be mailed when you have approximately two weeks of benefits left. Once you receive this notice, schedule and attend an orientation, you will receive another notice in the mail providing further instructions when you exhaust your current benefit entitlement. In many cases you will be enrolled automatically in EB - AFTER - you have completed the orientation at your nearest Resource Center. In other cases, you will be directed (again through the mail) to call our

Initial Claims line at 1-877-214-3330. In any case - be sure your mailing address is current so that you will receive timely filing instructions.

Q. I returned to work. Can I receive retroactive Extended Benefits?

A. No, the Extended Benefits Program does not pay retroactively.

Q. What are the job search requirements while on Extended Benefits?

A. You must be able, available and actively applying for full-time work during each week you request regular UI or extended benefits. **Your work search efforts under the EB program must:**

- Include at least 3 job contacts made during the week
- Have contacts made on at least 2 different days during the week
- 1 of the 3 contacts must be made IN PERSON
- Have more than one method of contact during the week
- Not be repeated during a 5-week period
- Be jobs you are qualified to do and willing to accept

Generally speaking telephone contacts are only acceptable if you have all the required elements of "systematic and sustained" work search. If you are in an approved training program, you do not have to meet the job search requirements.

Q. What is needed to meet the "systematic and sustained" requirement on my job contact while on Extended Benefits?

A. To meet this requirement, you must keep a verifiable work search record that includes the following information about EACH contact:

- Date of Contact
- Employer Name, Address
- Name of Person Contacted
- Telephone number of person contacted or business
- Method of Contact - in person, resume, telephone, on-line, other (requires details)
- Results of contact
- Type of work applied for

Q. What will happen if I do not have a verifiable work search while on Extended Benefits?

A. You will be disqualified for Extended Benefits beginning the week you failed to meet the job search requirements and until you have worked in four (4) different weeks and have earned wages

equal to six (6) times your weekly benefit rate. You will also be required to repay any improperly received benefits.

Q. How do you suggest I keep track of my job contacts and work search efforts?

A. VDOL has developed an EB Work Search Report (B-82a) that you can use to keep track of your contacts. This voluntary form will provide you with all the required elements, along with space to write your contacts. You do not need to submit this form to the Department; it was developed for your reference/use only. That said, all of the information the B-82a form contains will be needed when you submit your weekly certification. Keep it handy and retain it in your records in case questions arise in the future.

Q. What if I don't provide all of the required information on the weekly work search certification? Will you call me?

A. We will not make any calls on incomplete or illegible work search forms. Be sure the information is complete and easy to read. It will be your responsibility to show you have made a "systematic and sustained" effort to look for work. If VDOL is unable to validate your work searches, you will be disqualified for Extended Benefits for that week and until you have worked in four (4) different weeks and have earned wages equal to six (6) times your weekly benefit rate.

Q. If I am sick, or on vacation, or do not look for work for a week or longer, what should I do?

A. You must be able, available, and looking for work throughout the week. If you claim a week of Extended Benefits, in which you do not meet all requirements, you will be disqualified for Extended Benefits for that week and until you have worked in four (4) different weeks and have earned wages equal to six (6) times your weekly benefit rate. However, you can choose not to claim a week because you did not meet the requirements. If you choose not to claim a week, you must re-open your claim when you meet the requirements to "restart" your claim. This can be done on-line through our Claimant Application portal or by calling the Initial Claims line at 1-877-214-3330.

Q. What is "suitable work" while receiving EB?

A. Suitable work on EB is defined as any work that you are capable of doing that is equal to or greater than VT's minimum wage.

While the job must be within a reasonable distance from your place of residence or last place of work, and cannot be detrimental to your health, safety, or morals, any job within your local and extended labor market that you are able to do would likely be considered suitable. Please keep in mind, if you fail to accept suitable work while claiming EB, you will be disqualified for EB beginning the week of the refusal and until you have worked in four (4) different weeks and have earned wages equal to six (6) times your weekly benefit rate.

You do not have to accept a job if it is vacant due to a labor strike, if you are required to join or to resign from a bona fide labor organization, or if the working conditions or hours are substantially less favorable than those prevailing for similar work in the labor market.

Q. I'm on "stand-by" with my employer. Do I have to look for other work to receive EB?

A. Yes - There is no “stand-by” on EB. All claimants on the EB program must be making an active work search (see above).

Q. I get my jobs through my union. Do I have to look for other work outside my union if I’m on EB?

A. Yes - If you normally get your work through your union hiring hall, you are still required to look for other suitable work that will not jeopardize your union status. Your union counts as one job contact during a week - you must make at least two other job search contacts during any week you claim EB. Remember to record your work search contacts as previously described.

Q. I have a Vermont claim but I live in another state. Do I qualify for EB?

A. If the state in which you live is not in an EB period, you are eligible for only two weeks of extended benefits. If the state in which you live is on EB, you are eligible to collect further weeks while that state is on the program. Should the state you live in later trigger onto EB and you have received only two (2) weeks of EB, you will be mailed a notice. Be sure to keep your address current.

Q. Can I continue to receive Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA) during an EB period?

A. We must explore your eligibility for EB (and any other programs). You must draw EB (if eligible) before TRA.

Q. Do I have to look for work if I am currently working part time but expect to become full time?

A. Yes, however, you only need to make one job contact.

Q. Do I have to participate in training or re-employment services provided by the Resource Center?

A. In many cases the Resource Center staff will assess your skills and employment needs. The overall goal is to help you secure employment and be job ready. If the Resource Center schedules you for an assessment, training, or services they determine will help you become employed, you are REQUIRED to participate. In most cases, if you fail to participate in an assessment, training, or service that has been scheduled for you by the Resource Center, you will be denied benefits until you do.

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