



## Council for Lifelong Learning Unemployment Compensation

## Fact Sheet

September 2001

<p>1. What is the Unemployment Compensation Program?</p>	<p>The Unemployment Compensation Program (program) is established to provide money to workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own. Unemployment compensation is not welfare, social security, retirement, disability income, or worker's compensation. Employers pay the costs of the Unemployment Compensation Program. No deductions are made from worker's wages to pay for this program. All claims for unemployment compensation are thoroughly reviewed to ensure that benefits are properly paid. If a person qualifies, the amount of the unemployment compensation check is between \$32 and \$275 per week based upon previous earnings and work history. Depending on a person's work history, benefits can last up to a maximum of twenty-six weeks. All unemployment compensation benefits are fully taxable.</p>
<p>2. Which state agencies are responsible for the Unemployment Compensation Program?</p>	<p>The Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) is responsible for eligibility determination and the disbursement of unemployment compensation benefits. (<b>See the Agency for Workforce Innovation Fact Sheet.</b>) The Department of Revenue is responsible for collecting money from employers to fund the program. AWI is also responsible for conducting hearings for persons who are appealing their denial or questioning the amount of benefits.</p>
<p>3. When is a person eligible for unemployment compensation?</p>	<p>A person is eligible when they become unemployed through no fault of their own and have been paid wages in two or more calendar quarters in the year preceding the month in which the person applies for the benefits (called the base period)</p>
<p>4. How does a person file a claim for unemployment compensation?</p>	<p>A person can file a claim for benefits over the Internet (<a href="http://www2.myflorida.com">www2.myflorida.com</a>) or by picking up claim forms at any local workforce one-stop center. Forms can be mailed or faxed to offices in Fort Lauderdale or Tallahassee where the claim(s) will be processed and mailed.</p>
<p>5. Are there continuing eligibility requirements?</p>	<p>Yes. For each week a person receives benefits, the person must: be totally or partially unemployed; report to AWI or similar programs as instructed; be physically able to perform some work; be available for work; have transportation and adequate child care; participate in re-employment programs; list all job contacts; and report all wages earned.</p>
<p>6. Can a person be denied benefits?</p>	<p>Yes. A person can be denied benefits if it is determined that he or she:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• quit his or her job;</li></ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• was discharged for misconduct;</li><li>• refused to apply for suitable employment;</li><li>• did not actively seek employment; or</li><li>• knowingly made false statements to obtain benefits.</li></ul>
7. What if a person disagrees with an eligibility determination?	A person can file a request with AWI for reconsideration or an appeal within 20 days from the date of the notice. The person's former employer may also appeal a determination decision. A hearing will be held to consider the determination decision and render a ruling that may be appealed to a court for a final ruling.
8. What are the applicable statutes and rules?	Chapter 443, F.S. -- Unemployment Compensation
9. Where can I get additional information?	Agency for Workforce Innovation 1320 Executive Center Drive Tallahassee, FL 32399-0067 (850) 488-7228 <a href="http://www2.myflorida.com/awi">www2.myflorida.com/awi</a>  On-line Filing for Unemployment Compensation <a href="http://www2.myflorida.com">www2.myflorida.com</a>  The Florida House of Representatives Committee on Workforce and Technical Skills (850) 922-9463