

Due to the rapidly evolving nature of state and federal programs, this information may change unexpectedly.

# HOW TO APPLY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS IN WASHINGTON STATE

MARCH 16, 2020 - If you have lost your job in Washington State through no fault of your own, you can apply for unemployment benefits through the Washington State Employment Security Department ([esd.wa.gov](https://esd.wa.gov)).

You can find instructions at [esd.wa.gov/unemployment](https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment).

- ✓ You must prove that you have worked at least 680 hours during the last 12-18 months, at least some of that in Washington State.
- ✓ You must provide basic information, including:
  - Your name, date of birth, and Social Security number
  - Names and addresses of all employers
  - Dates you worked at each employer
  - Your citizenship status or authorization to work
- ✓ Once you are approved, you will need to submit a weekly claim for each week you are unemployed.
- ✓ You may need to prove you are looking for a new job. However, if you have been temporarily laid off due to COVID-19 you do not need to look for a new job.

There are extra protections in place for people who have lost work due to COVID-19. These are described at [esd.wa.gov/newsroom/covid-19](https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/covid-19). These extra protections cover you if your employer closed because of lack of business or a government order, or if you must take time off to quarantine or care for a family member and do not have paid sick leave.

You can apply online 24/7 at [secure.esd.wa.gov/home](https://secure.esd.wa.gov/home)  
You can apply by phone at 800-318-6022 (8am-4pm)



King County  
Council