



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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2018 Partial Government Shutdown Unemployment Insurance Eligibility Resource for Federal Employees

Funding for a number of key government agencies expired on Friday, December 21, 2018 at midnight. Many federal government employees at the affected agencies have either been furloughed or deemed essential and will continue to work; however, their pay will be withheld until the shutdown is over. Retroactive pay is not guaranteed. Below are answers to common questions you may have if you file for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits.

1. Am I eligible?

It is possible that furloughed employees may become eligible for UI benefits. We cannot make any claim determination until you file a claim. To be eligible, an individual must not be working or working less than 40 hours and earning less than their weekly benefit amount, and be able, available, and actively seeking work.

2. How do I file a claim?

You can file online using the Online Claim System at: www.oregon.gov/employ

OR

By calling the UI Center and file with a claims specialist at: (877) 345-3484

You will need to provide your complete work history for the past 18 months including employer names, addresses, phone numbers, dates of employment, and last duty station.

Federal employers do not report your wages to the Employment Department until you file a claim. To avoid additional delays, be prepared to also provide SF-8 or SF-50 forms or copies of your paystubs for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

3. Do I have to look for work during the Federal Government shutdown?

Yes, as there is no return to work date even if you are working part-time, the federal furlough does not meet Oregon's definition of a temporary layoff. You must complete at least five work-seeking activities for each week that you claim benefits. Two of the five work-seeking

activities must be direct contact with employers. The [Claimant Handbook](#) is available online for more information.

4. What will happen if all federal workers and those who work in federally-funded positions affected by the shutdown are later paid for time during the shutdown period?

If Congress passes legislation that retroactively provides for the payment of salary, state law and rule considers this to be “back pay” and not reportable. However, the U.S. Department of Labor will require all states, including Oregon, to deny benefits to claimants who will be paid during the furlough period. If that happens, we will advise affected claimants if benefits are overpaid and if so, provide repayment options.

5. What if I am required to work during the furlough but am not being paid?

“Expected employees” who work during a government shutdown are required to report their hours worked and their expected earnings for the week, even if it is unknown whether you will be paid. If it is later determined you will not be paid during the furlough, contact the UI Center to request a review of your weeks claimed.

The Employment Department can only review and address your specific circumstances after you file an unemployment insurance application.