



## HURRICANE SANDY: DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE BENEFITS

Many people who live or work in New York were not able to work because of Hurricane Sandy disruptions.

### What Can I Do If I Was Not Able to Work Because of Sandy?

If you were unable to work because of Hurricane Sandy, you can apply for unemployment assistance benefits through the New York State Department of Labor. You may be able to get money for wages you lost any time after October 29, 2012.

### Can I Get These Benefits Even If I Am Not a U.S. Citizen?

You may be eligible for these benefits if you were working legally when you lost your job, are legally allowed to take a new job, and you meet the other requirements for UI.

### How Can I File a Claim for Disaster Unemployment Assistance Benefits?

First, you must file a regular unemployment insurance benefits claim with the New York State Department of Labor and indicate that you became unemployed or that you lost income due to Hurricane Sandy.

To do so, call the New York State Department of Labor at 1-888-209-8124. If you live out of state, call 1-877-358-5306.

### When Must I File a Claim for Disaster Unemployment Assistance Benefits?

You should be sure to file your claim as early as possible. The New York State Department of Labor's **deadline** is **February 4, 2013**.

### What Information and Documentation Will I Need to File My Claim?

You will need:

- Your Social Security number
- Your mailing address and zip code
- A telephone number where you can be reached for additional information
- Your NYS driver's license or Motor Vehicle ID card number, if you have one
- Your alien registration card number, if you have one
- The names and addresses of all employers you worked for within the 18 months prior to October 29, 2012, including those in other states.

## **How Much Can I Expect to Receive In Benefits?**

How much you may receive will depend on your earnings history during the 18 months preceding when you became unemployed or lost income due to Hurricane Sandy. At a minimum, eligible individuals will receive \$152 per week, for each week that they are unemployed or experience loss of income due to Hurricane Sandy. The maximum amount you may receive in benefits is \$405 per week.

## **How Long Can I Receive Disaster Unemployment Assistance Benefits For?**

You may receive disaster unemployment assistance benefits for a maximum of 27 weeks beginning on October 29, 2012 through May 5, 2013. Keep in mind that to be eligible, you must have lost employment or income as a direct consequence of Hurricane Sandy, so to receive benefits for the maximum amount of time, your unemployment or loss of income must continue throughout the disaster assistance period (October 29, 2012-May 5, 2013).

## **What Can I Do If My Claim for Benefits is Denied?**

If your claim for benefits is denied, you have a right to appeal to the New York State Department of Labor within 60 days of the date it mailed its determination to you. Please be sure to carefully read the New York State Department of Labor's determination for instructions on how to file an appeal.

## **Where Can I Get More Information About These Benefits?**

For more information about disaster unemployment assistance benefits, you should visit the New York State Department of Labor's website at: <http://www.labor.ny.gov/ui/2012-sandy-services.shtm>.

If you have additional questions regarding these benefits, you can also call MFY Legal Service's Workplace Justice Project Hotline at **212-417-3838** on Mondays or Tuesdays, between 2PM and 5PM.