

Appendix O: Information on Federal Extended Benefits

Overview of Latest Extension Benefits

Updated June 22, 2011.

Upcoming Change on Federal-State Extended Benefits (EB) Effective July 9, 2011

Due to the decline in the unemployment rate in Massachusetts, the maximum number of weeks Massachusetts is permitted to offer for EB will be reduced from 20 weeks to 13 weeks. If you are currently receiving EB, you will be contacted by phone and mail between June 24, 2011 and July 06, 2011 to inform you how the upcoming EB changes will affect you. If you have not exhausted your EB, you should continue to file your weekly claim until you are notified that your benefits are exhausted. If you have any question, please call 877-232-6200.

1. Overview

The US Department of Labor informed Massachusetts that based on data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on June 17, the three month average, seasonally adjusted total unemployment rates for Massachusetts fell below the 8.0% threshold necessary for a high unemployment period (HUP) in the EB program. The payable period for claims in HUP will conclude July 9, 2011.

Therefore, effective July 10, 2011, the Federal/State Extended Benefits (EB) will revert to the basic program where the maximum number of weeks allowed is 13 weeks. As a result, the maximum potential weeks of benefits will drop to 86 weeks for Massachusetts claimants.

Changes to EB under the New Rules effective July 10, 2011

- The last week for which EB benefits are payable under the high unemployment rules is the week ending July 9, 2011. After this date, existing EB entitlements will be recalculated using the low unemployment rate.
- When the new rules take effect, the maximum number of weeks allowed for EB is 13 weeks. The new rules are retroactive and apply to all active EB claimants regardless of when they became eligible for EB and how much EB credit they were originally determined to receive.
- If you are an active EB claimant, your EB benefits will either continue or exhaust based on the amount of EB you have already collected. You will be contacted by phone and mail with information on how the new EB rules will affect you. See the **Frequently Asked Questions** section below for examples of how the new EB rules work.
 - If you are determined to have **remaining EB**, you will receive a re-determination and explanation of your EB entitlement. You should continue to certify for weekly benefits until we notify you that your EB has exhausted.
 - If you are determined to have **exhausted EB**, you will no longer be eligible to receive additional EB after July 9, 2011. Your EB entitlement will have exceeded the maximum 13 weeks

allowable under the new rules. You should continue to certify for weekly benefits through the week ending July 9, 2011.

- If you become eligible for EB after July 9, 2011, you will be eligible up to the maximum 13 weeks of EB.

Previous Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) Changes

Effective December 18, 2010, the maximum number of weeks of allowed for Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) is 47 weeks. Massachusetts claimants are no longer eligible for the final EUC Tier IV.

- Claimants exhausting Tier III of EUC after the week ending December 18, 2010 can apply for the Extended Benefits (EB) program.
- The last date to file for EB is January 22, 2012 and the last payable week is January 28, 2012.

Program	Number of Weeks	Program End Date or Application Deadline	Last Payable Week
Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) Tier I	Up to 20 weeks	Must exhaust UI on or before 12/24/11 Last effective date for Tier 1 is 12/25/11	06/09/12
Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) Tier II	Up to 14 weeks	Must exhaust Tier I on or before the w/e 12/31/11	06/09/12
Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) Tier III	Up to 13 weeks	Must exhaust Tier II on or before the w/e 12/31/11	06/09/12
Federal-State Extended Benefits (EB)	Up to 20 weeks through week ending 07/09/11 Up to 13 weeks effective 07/10/11	Last effective date to file for EB is 01/22/12 Must exhaust all rights to EUC Tiers I, II, III (and IV) - must still be triggered	01/28/12

2. Part-Time Work

The legislation included provisions that allow individuals who accept part-time or temporary work while claiming benefits to continue receiving extended benefits under certain circumstances even when they qualify for a new Unemployment Insurance claim based on their part-time or temporary work.

This legislation applies to claimants who meet the following requirements:

- filing a new claim with benefits reduced by \$100 or 25% less than the previous claim, and
- whose benefit year ends on or after July 24, 2010. This legislation is **not retroactive** for claimants whose benefit year ends before July 24, 2010.

3. Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why did EB revert to the basic program in Massachusetts and how does it affect me?

Based on data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on June 17, the three month average, seasonally adjusted total unemployment rates for Massachusetts fell below the 8.0% threshold necessary for a high unemployment period (HUP) in the EB program. The payable period for claims in HUP will conclude July 9, 2011.

If you are an active EB claimant whose benefit entitlement was computed using the high unemployment rules, your maximum benefit allocation will be re-determined. This means that effective July 10, 2011, your EB entitlement could be affected in one of 2 ways: your EB entitlement will be reduced/re-calculated at a lower rate; or your EB entitlement will be exhausted. You will receive a letter indicating whether you have remaining EB credit or you have exhausted your EB credit under the new rules.

2. Recently, I received a letter from DUA indicating that I may be eligible for up to 20 weeks of EB. Based on this change, will I still be able to receive up to the maximum 20 weeks?

No, the maximum weeks of EB allowable is 13 weeks once the new rules take effect on July 10, 2011. The new rules are retroactive and affect all active EB claimants regardless of when they became eligible for EB and how much EB credit they were originally determined to receive.

3. I was eligible to receive 20 weeks of EB and have received 2 weeks to date. How many more weeks can I collect?

Under the high unemployment rules, you were originally determined to be eligible for the maximum 20 weeks. Under the new rules, you will be re-determined to be eligible to receive up to a maximum of 13 weeks. Depending on the amount of EB already received, your remaining balance will be the thirteen weeks minus that which you have received. In this case, you now have 11 weeks (13 minus 2 = 11 weeks) of EB remaining. You will receive a re-determination of your EB entitlement by mail.

4. I will have received 11 weeks of EB through the week ending July 9, 2011. Will I have any remaining EB?

That depends on whether your recalculated EB credit under the new rules exceeds the amount you have already collected. For example, under the high rules, you were originally determined to be eligible for up to 12 weeks, and your new benefit determination notice (under the new rules) states that you are now eligible for up to 7.5 weeks of benefits. As of July 9, 2011, you have already received 11 weeks of EB, hence, you would have no benefits remaining. In this case, you will receive a letter indicating that you have exhausted your EB credit under the new rules. Since each claim is different, you should call our EB line at 877-232-6200 if you have any question.

5. I have already received 13 weeks of EB. How will I be affected by the new rule to EB?

Unfortunately, all claimants who have received 13 – 19 weeks of EB will no longer be eligible to receive additional EB after July 9, 2011. You will receive a letter indicating that you have exhausted EB. **Assistance Programs** are available for claimants who have exhausted unemployment benefits. Please contact Mass 211 (2-1-1 on your telephone or www.mass211help.org) or any one of the agencies listed in the attached [flyer](#).

6. I was just approved for regular unemployment benefits. How many weeks will I be eligible to collect?

Effective July 10, 2011, the maximum potential weeks of benefits will be reduced from 93 weeks to 86 weeks (26 weeks of regular state benefits, 47 weeks of Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) and 13 weeks of Extended Benefits) as Massachusetts is no longer allowed to offer the final 6-week Tier IV of the federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation benefit program and has reverted to the 13 weeks of basic Federal-State Extended Benefits (EB). Please note that not all claimants are eligible to collect the maximum potential weeks of benefits.

7. I have exhausted all tiers of EUC and federal-state Extended Benefits (EB) – what other benefits or options are available to me?

Unfortunately, there are no additional benefits available to claimants who have exhausted all EUC tiers and EB benefits. Please be aware that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and partner organizations offer a wide variety of services – from basic needs, health care, counseling, employment and training assistance and more – to assist individuals who have exhausted or will soon exhaust their unemployment insurance claim. Learn more about [Assistance Programs](#).

8. How can I tell which EUC tier I'm on and whether I'm eligible for an additional tier?

Please call our TeleClaims Center at 617-626-6800 or 1-877-626-6800 (from area codes 351, 413, 508, 774, and 978) to find out which tier of benefits you're currently on. If you have a remaining balance in your account, you should continue to claim weekly benefits. We will notify you when you are eligible for the next tier of benefits and when you exhaust your benefits.