

# Illinois Unemployment Benefits FAQs

(Updated 1/27/2022)

## Who is Eligible for Illinois Unemployment Benefits?

You are eligible if you:

- Have earned \$1,600.00 total during your “base period”; \$440 must have been earned outside of your highest paid quarter;
  - Your “base period” is the four calendar quarters (3-month periods) before a claim for benefits was filed.
  - If you worked part-time, you are eligible as long as you meet the income requirement.
  - If your hours were reduced, you are generally **not** eligible, but this may change.
- Have become unemployed through no fault of your own;
  - If you were temporarily laid off due to COVID-19 you are eligible, if:
    - You are confined to your home due to a COVID-19 diagnosis, or because you need to care for a spouse, parent, or child who’s been diagnosed with COVID-19;
    - You have had to leave work due to a child’s school closure;
    - You are **not** receiving paid leave.
- Are able and available to return to work.
  - You must register with the state employment service at Illinois JobLink ([www.IllinoisJobLink.com](http://www.IllinoisJobLink.com)) to show your availability, **unless** you were temporarily laid off due to COVID-19—then you are **not** required to show your availability.

## How do I file an unemployment claim?

Currently, you must submit your application using the online system at

<https://ides.illinois.gov/unemployment/file-a-claim.html>

You should be prepared to report past and current wages and to provide details on the reason for your unemployment.

### How long do unemployment benefits last?

You may receive benefits for a total of 26 weeks. Federal relief may allow for additional benefit weeks.

### How are benefits calculated?

A weekly benefit amount is determined by:

- Adding the amount of the two highest earning quarters from a base period;
- Taking 47% of the total received from adding the two highest earning quarters; and
- Dividing the result by 26.

## What should I do if my claim is denied?

You must appeal the denial of benefits within 30 days of the finding of ineligibility. Forms and instructions for appeal are available through Illinois Legal Aid Online at [Illinoislegalaid.org/legal-information/appealing-ides-unemployment-decision](http://Illinoislegalaid.org/legal-information/appealing-ides-unemployment-decision) If you are interested in legal representation, apply at [legalaidchicago.org](http://legalaidchicago.org).



Call

**312.341.1070**

Monday to Friday  
between 8 AM and 4:30 PM

OR



**Apply Online**

[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)