

Individuals who worked in Alabama, Louisiana, or Mississippi, and are now unemployed and have relocated to Virginia as a result of Hurricane Katrina, may file a claim for unemployment compensation through the state of Virginia which will act as an agent for the appropriate liable impacted state. You may be eligible for regular unemployment compensation or Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) in the form of weekly benefits from the state where you were employed prior to the disaster. The 30-day filing deadline for DUA claims has been extended to November 30, 2005 for Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. You may file a claim in the following manner depending upon the state where you were employed:

If employed in *Alabama*, you may file your UI or DUA claim by phone by calling toll free 1-866-234-5382 or access their web site at: <http://dir.alabama.gov/citizen/>

If employed in *Louisiana*, call toll free 1-800-818-7811 between the hours of 3pm and 7pm. This number is ONLY for use by those evacuees that are now in Texas and those still residing in Louisiana. You can also file your claim via the Internet by accessing www.laworks.net.

If employed in *Mississippi*, call toll free 1-888-844-3577 between the hours of 7am and 7pm seven days a week. The Department of Employment Services web site is: <http://mdes.ms.gov/wps/portal/#null>

If you are unable to use the above toll free numbers or referenced web sites, you may begin your job search or file your claim for benefits by visiting one of the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) field offices listed on this website (click the *Field Offices* link on the VEC home page). To file a claim for Disaster Unemployment Assistance, you MUST visit one of our Field Offices in person. VEC staff in our offices will be available to assist you in beginning your job search, filing your UI claim, or obtaining any necessary documents.

The state where you were last employed, at the time the disaster occurred will determine your eligibility for regular unemployment compensation. If you are determined not eligible, you must file a claim for Disaster Unemployment Assistance in person based upon the disasters that were declared in all 3 states on 8/29/2005. The first week of eligibility would be the week beginning 9/4/2005 and could last as many as 26 weeks.

Your entitlement to Disaster Unemployment will be based upon your wages earned in employment and self-employment during the calendar year 2004. If you were self employed you would need to provide proof of your self employment and your 2004 federal tax return. If your tax return is not available, VEC staff can assist you in contacting the Internal Revenue Service toll free at 1-866-562-5227 or on the web at <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=147085,00.html>.