



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

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Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) will be providing Federally Funded Unemployment Benefits —Up to an additional 14 weeks—

Richmond—President Obama signed the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 on November 6, 2009. This Act provides one additional week of Tier II benefits and up to 13 additional weeks of the new Tier III benefits to those unemployed workers in Virginia who previously exhausted their State Extended Benefits (EB).

This Act also provided for additional Tier IV benefits, however, Virginia will not qualify for the Tier IV benefits due to the present unemployment rate.

This Act did not extend the program end date and all initial applications for EUC Tier I, EUC Tier II, and EB must be made by December 31, 2009. You cannot file an application for EUC Tier III prior to exhausting your EB. Therefore, not all unemployed persons will qualify for all of the extensions.

The VEC has begun verifying claimants' eligibility and reprogramming computer systems to implement the additional benefits. Applications to all claimants who have exhausted their EB and who may be eligible for additional benefits under this new federal legislation will be mailed out to those claimants once all programming is completed. Due to the age of the VEC's automated system and the complexity of the program requirements, it could take up to eight weeks or longer to complete all of the programming required to implement these changes.

Claimants with balances remaining on their EUC Tier I, EUC Tier II or EB claims as of December 31, 2009, may continue to be eligible for those benefits through May 29, 2010, as long as they meet the reporting and eligibility requirements. After that date no extensions are payable and all eligibility is limited to the maximum 26 weeks provided under the regular state unemployment insurance program.

The additional weeks of EUC are entirely federally funded and will not have an impact on the state's general fund or the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

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