



Unemployment Benefits for Impacted Federal Workers: What You Need to Know

In the event of a federal government shutdown or if you've been separated from a federal government job, you may be eligible for unemployment benefits. The N.C. Division of Employment Security (DES) is here to guide you through the process and ensure you get the benefits you're entitled to.



Eligibility Requirements

Federal workers must meet these criteria to qualify for unemployment benefits:

- **Recent Federal Employment:** You must have worked for the federal government and are now unemployed due to a separation.

Furloughed employees who get unemployment benefits and later receive backpay from their employer for the same time period will be **required to repay** any unemployment benefits received.

- **State Determination:** Eligibility depends on the state (last duty station) where you last worked as a federal employee.
- **Documents Needed:**
 - o W-2, LES, or pay stubs from the past 18 months
 - o SF-50 (Notification of Personnel Action)
 - o SF-8 (Notice to Federal Employee About Unemployment Benefits)

*Note: Providing SF-50 or SF-8 forms is not required but strongly encouraged.



How to Apply for Benefits

1. **File Online:** Create your MyNCUIBenefits account at des.nc.gov and apply online.
2. **Required Documents:**
 - o Proof of your wages is required. You will receive an initial wage transcript from DES which may not show your federal wages. Please do not file a wage protest if your wage transcript is blank. DES will use your documentation and contact the federal agency for your wages. Once your wages are added, you will receive an updated wage transcript.
 - o Provide separation details, such as severance pay or official documents from your federal agency.
3. **Submit a Form ETA-935** Affidavit of Federal Civilian Service, Wages and Reason of Separation: This form explains your federal job and why you were separated.
4. **Verify Your Identity:** During the application process, you may be asked to verify your identity. Visit des.nc.gov/need-help/identity-verification for more information. Federal workers who already have an ID.me account may skip full verification. They just need to go into their ID.me account, use a valid email address (i.e., not their government email) and give consent to share information with DES. ID.me provides a tutorial for this. Get details: des.nc.gov/federalworkers



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Other Notes:

- Because you worked for a federal employer, your wage transcript may be blank when it is sent to you from DES. Do not file a wage protest. DES will use your documentation and contact the federal agency for your wages. Once your wages are added, you will receive an updated wage transcript.
- In North Carolina, the first eligible week of any claim is a “waiting week.” You will not get benefits for this week; it is not included in your weeks of payment.
- If you don’t agree with the decision on your claim, you have the right to appeal. You’ll be given information on how to do this when you submit your claim.
- After you have applied for benefits, you must file a certification for each week that you want to get benefits.

Need Help Finding a Job?

NCWorks is the state entity that provides career services to people looking for a job. Call or visit an NCWorks career center near you for employment support services. Visit their website for more information: [NCWorks.gov](https://www.ncworks.gov)



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