

Agency:

Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA).

Subject:

Change in Extended Benefit (EB) Program Status for Multiple States.

Action:

Notices.

Summary:

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has announced, via separate notices and in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, changes regarding Extended Benefits (EB) program status for multiple states. Benefits under the EB program are available to eligible individuals who have collected all of their regular state unemployment benefits. The basic EB program provides up to 13 additional weeks of benefits when a state is experiencing high unemployment.

The first of these notices establishes the ETA's determination that the 13-week unemployment rates for New Hampshire, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Ohio, and Oregon, for the week ending April 25, 2020, rose above 5.0 percent and exceeded 120 percent of the corresponding average rates in the two prior years. As a result, beginning the week of May 10, 2020, eligible unemployed workers in these states will be able to collect up to an additional 13 weeks of benefits.

The second notice establishes the ETA's determination that the 13-week unemployment rates for Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Mexico, and Wisconsin, for the week ending May 2, 2020, rose above 5.0 percent and exceeded 120 percent of the corresponding average rates in the two prior years. As a result, beginning the week of May 17, 2020, eligible unemployed workers in these states will be able to collect up to an additional 13 weeks of benefits.

Deadline:

New Hampshire, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Ohio, and Oregon have been triggered "on" to EB periods that will last for a minimum of 13 weeks beginning the week of May 10, 2020. Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Mexico, and Wisconsin have been triggered "on" to EB periods that will last for a minimum of 13 weeks beginning the week of May 17, 2020.

Relevance:

Your union has an interest in these notices to the extent that your members in these states who may have exhausted their regular unemployment benefits could be eligible for EB that will extend their unemployment benefits for up to 13 additional weeks.

Recommended Action:

Inform your eligible members in New Hampshire, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Ohio, Oregon, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Mexico, and Wisconsin that there have been changes in EB program status for these states and that the "on" periods will last for at least 13 weeks.

Agency Contact:

Kevin Stapleton, ETA at (202) 693 – 3009.

To Discuss Further:

Contact Andrew Siff at AMS@scllaw.com or (202) 457 – 7756.