

Unemployment Insurance Branch Update

Agenda

- 1. Work Search Requirement for UI Benefits*
- 2. Refusal of Work*
- 3. Fraud Detection and Deterrence*

Work Search Requirement for UI Benefits

What is the Requirement to Look for Work?

Beginning July 11, 2021, UI claimants are again expected to look for work.

- A “seek work” requirement has been in place since the start of the UI program.
- During the pandemic, the federal government temporarily allowed states to suspend this requirement. California suspended the requirement in March 2020.
- Starting July 11, claimants are expected to use reasonable efforts to look for suitable jobs to be eligible for unemployment benefits.
- Individuals starting new claims on or after July 11 must also register on CalJOBS.

What are “reasonable efforts” to look for suitable work?

- Search for a job online, in newspapers, or in other publications.
- Engage in education and training opportunities to assist in obtaining employment.
- Send résumés to employers or add a résumé to a job board, like [CalJOBS.ca.gov](https://www.caljobs.ca.gov/).
- Contact employers, including past employers, about a job or an application that was submitted.



What are “reasonable efforts” to look for work?

- Create a user profile on a professional networking site.
- Register with a staffing service, temp agency, recruiter, or placement agency.
- Visit with potential employers in person, such as at a job fair.
- Talk with friends about job openings.



Visit edd.ca.gov and type “Job Seekers” in the search bar for more information.

What about Pandemic Unemployment Assistance?

- There are different search requirements for those on PUA.
- Most PUA recipients must take action to restart their businesses or look for work:
 - Marketing, pursuing new clients or contracts
 - Expanding networks
 - Establishing accounts
 - Participating in training



Timeline for Reinstatement of the Search for Work Requirement

- **Beginning July 11**, most claimants will be expected to look for work.
- **July 18** is the first day to certify **Yes** on Question #3 for the week of July 11 – July 17.
 - **On or after July 18**, answering **No** to Question #3 may lead to additional questions and possibly an eligibility interview.



Direct Customer Communication and Support

- UI Online Homepage notification.
- Fact sheets for job seekers and employers.
- Launch edd.ca.gov updates.
- Updated help text and UI Online guidance for an accurate response to **Question #3**, “[Did you look for work?](#)”
- Email and text messages directly to customers.
- Updated UI Online homepage notification.
- Insert will be mailed to all customers who receive a paper Continued Claim Form (DE 4581).

Report Refusal of Work

Report Refusal of Work

- People receiving unemployment benefits must remain available for work and actively seek employment.
- If suitable employment is offered to someone receiving unemployment benefits, they must accept unless there is good cause to refuse the offer.

How to Report Refusal of Work

- If someone receiving unemployment benefits refuses a job offer, we must determine if the employment was suitable and if there was good cause to refuse.

As an employer, you can use [Ask EDD](#) to report their refusal to work.

In Ask EDD:

Select **Unemployment Insurance** for category.

Select **Employer Inquiry** for subcategory.

Select **Report Refusal of Work** for topic.

Review [How to Report a Job Refusal Using Ask EDD \(YouTube\)](#).

What the EDD Does with Your Report

We will review your report to determine if:

- The job fit their skill set and you were ready for them to start work.
- They received enough information about the offer.
- They were offered the job verbally; by mail, email, fax, or internet; or through a union referral.
- The offer was genuine, clear, and made by someone with the authority to hire.
- The offer was made to someone who has never worked for you or is being rehired.

What the EDD Does with Your Report

We will also review the job refusal with the individual to gather information such as:

- Their prior training, experiences, and wages.
- Their length of unemployment and prospects of securing local work in their usual occupation.
- The distance of the job from their residence.

Fraud Deterrence and Detection

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The [EDD's Annual Fraud Report for 2019](#), identifies over \$116 million established in UI fraud overpayments.

- 10 completed criminal cases (\$3 million)
- An additional 61 cases under investigation that have the potential to recover over \$24.5 million.

To deter fraud, the [EDD Actively Prosecutes Fraud](#) web page displays the level in which EDD is committed to detecting, deterring, preventing, and prosecuting fraud to the fullest extent of the law.

Fraud Deterrence and Detection

In addition to our existing measures to detect, deter and identify fraud, the EDD has made strides in strengthening its efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw states filing more than a billion unemployment claims in 2020 with CA receiving the most claims of any state.

The [Fraud Info-Sheet](#) breaks down the levels of fraud and efforts made by the EDD to address this situation during the pandemic.

Moving forward, the EDD will aggressively continue to do all in its power to reduce the negative impact of fraud within the programs that it's entrusted to administer and protect.

THANK YOU

