

# Steps to

# Unemployment Benefits

IN WASHINGTON STATE

## What Are They?

Unemployment benefits provide temporary income if you lose your job through no fault of your own.

The office which manages them is called the Employment Security Department (or ESD).

## Are You Eligible?

1

To figure out if you are eligible, use ESD's [online Eligibility Checker](#).

Still unsure if you're eligible after using the Checker? Apply anyway.

### COVID-19 Note

If you were laid off due to COVID-19, you are probably eligible for benefits.

### COVID-19 Note

ESD is very busy! Save time and apply online.

2

## Apply Online

- Gather the documents ESD needs.
- Apply with a laptop or desktop computer (*applying with a mobile phone is not recommended*).
- Apply 24/7.

## ESD Responds

If ESD says you are eligible:

- Start weekly claims
- Report accurately
- Use direct deposit or a debit card for payments
- Look for more info from ESD

3

### COVID-19 Note

The CARES Act created a program called Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC). It provides up to 13 additional weeks of benefits. Contact ESD to see if you are eligible.

### COVID-19 Note

Looking for other work is usually required, but due to COVID-19, this step is optional until further notice.

4

## Look for Work

Many employers are still hiring so you should actively look for other work if at all possible.

If you do find other work, tell ESD!

## More info from ESD

[Documents ESD Needs](#)

[PEUC Information](#)

[Technical Help](#)

[Unemployment Handbook](#)