

Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE)

About UCFE

- UCFE provides unemployment insurance (UI) benefits for former federal civilian employees who are unemployed due to no fault of their own.
- Employees must have separated from federal civilian employment in the last 18 months to qualify for UCFE.
- UCFE applicants qualify for UI under the laws of the state in which an individual's last official duty station (in federal civilian service) was located.
- However, claimants qualify for UI under the laws of their state of residence if:
 - the applicant's last duty station was outside of the United States, or
 - the applicant left federal employment and performed covered employment in their state of residence.
- ★ A duty station refers to the city or town, county, and state in which the employee worked. This is usually the location of the employee's work site.
- You may apply for UCFE in Maryland if:
 - Your last official duty station (for federal civilian employment) was in Maryland,
 - You are a Maryland resident and your official duty station was outside of the U.S., or
 - You are a Maryland resident who left federal employment and later worked in covered employment in Maryland.

Eligibility

- The eligibility requirements for UCFE applicants are the same as for Regular UI applicants.
- To be eligible for Regular UI benefits in Maryland, claimants must:
 - be unemployed due to no fault of their own,
 - have earned sufficient wages during a standard or alternate base period, and
 - be able and available to work.
- ★ To learn more about UI base periods, see the **Claims Filing - Initial Claims FAQs** (labor.maryland.gov/employment/claimfaq.shtml).
- To remain eligible for UI benefits in Maryland, claimants must continue to be able and available for work and actively seek work each week.
- Claimants must also file weekly claim certifications to request benefit payments.
- For detailed information, see:
 - **Eligibility Requirements FAQs** (labor.maryland.gov/employment/claimfaq.shtml), and
 - **Maryland Work Search Requirements** (labor.maryland.gov/employment/uirex.shtml).

Required Documentation

When an initial claim is filed, UCFE applicants will be asked to provide:

- **SF-8**, Notice to Federal Employee About Unemployment Insurance form, *and*
- **SF-50**, Notification of Personnel Action form.

Federal employers provide these forms to their employees upon separation.

UI Tax Information

- UCFE benefits are subject to federal income tax. Claimants may choose to have federal taxes withheld from UCFE benefits.
- Individuals will receive **Form 1099-G** to complete their income tax returns.

Filing a UCFE Claim

- In Maryland, applicants may file a claim for UCFE:
 - online in **BEACON** (beacon.labor.maryland.gov/beacon/claimant-page.html), and
 - by phone at **667-207-6520**.

For more information about filing an initial claim, see:

- **Claims Filing - Initial Claims FAQs** (labor.maryland.gov/employment/claimfaq.shtml), and
- **BEACON Account Registration tutorial video** (labor.maryland.gov/employment/uibeaconvideo.shtml).

Weekly Benefit Amount

- For a UCFE claimant, the weekly benefit amount (WBA), or the amount of benefits a claimant may be entitled to each week, is calculated the same way as a Regular UI claimant's WBA. This calculation is based on the applicant's earnings during a standard or alternate base period.
- In Maryland, the **minimum WBA is \$50** and the **maximum is \$430**.

Appeals

- Individuals who are disqualified or denied benefits have the right to file an appeal.
- An employer may also appeal a determination if the employer disagrees with the state's determination of an individual's eligibility.

Additional Information

To learn more about UI benefits in Maryland, see the **Division website** at mdunemployment.com.