

How to apply for Unemployment Benefits

Information you will need to apply

Have the following information ready before you start. The Employment Security Department's (ESD) system will "time out" after a short period if you pause to find information. You'll need your:

- Social Security number
- Current work history for the last 18 months. (All employer names, addresses, and start/end dates.)

Apply online – It's much faster

Visit Employment Security's website at www.esd.wa.gov and select *Unemployment benefits*. Then, select *Apply online* to go to *eServices* to sign in or create your account. Best of all, *eServices* is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Or by phone

If you file by phone, you'll likely experience long wait times. Call 800-318-6022.

Hearing impaired: 800-365-8969 or apply online

Payment options

You can receive your benefits on a prepaid debit card OR through direct deposit to your bank. If you apply online you can select either option. If you apply by phone you will automatically receive a debit card. We aren't allowed to take personal banking information over the phone.



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