

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Note: The responses below provide general information. To obtain State UI specific information, please contact the State UI agency directly or review the UI requirements on the State website (go to <https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/service-locator.aspx>) and enter the State where you collected your UI benefits).

Retroactive Payment of Wages

Question: Are Federal employees required to repay the unemployment benefits received when/if wages are paid retroactively for the time that they were not working during the Government shutdown?

Answer: In most States, including the District of Columbia, employees who receive unemployment benefits and also later receive a retroactive payment from their employer for the same time period, will be required to repay the UI benefits received.

The State UI agency determines whether or not an overpayment exists and, generally, the recovery of the overpayment is a matter for State action under its law; however, some State UI laws require the employer to recover such overpayment.

Question: Can an employee's wages be garnished if there is an overpayment of benefits?

Answer: Yes, if the State law has provisions for wage garnishments. However, employees will be given the opportunity to voluntarily repay the overpayment first before the State proceeds with any garnishments.

Question: If I am overpaid benefits, will I be required to repay the entire amount all at once?

Answer: It depends on the State requirements; most States will allow an individual to set up a repayment agreement to satisfy the overpayment.

Cancellation of UI Claim

Question: Is it possible to cancel my UI claim if the Government shutdown ends?

Answer: It depends on the State UI law and the status of your claim. Most States will not allow cancellation of a UI claim if the (weekly/bi-weekly) continued claim certification was made and/or any benefit payment(s) were issued.

Question: I have not yet received any UI payments; how can I find out the status of my claim?

Answer: You will need to contact the State UI agency where you filed your claim.