

When to file for unemployment benefits

If you want unemployment benefits and do not have an active claim, you need to apply for benefits. If you have a claim that started within the last 12 months, but you have not filed a weekly claim within the last 5 weeks, you need to restart your claim.

You need to apply for benefits or restart your claim so that it starts the Sunday of the first week you want to claim benefits. For unemployment purposes, a week starts on Sunday and ends on Saturday.

Sunday before the first week you want to claim:

Apply for benefits or restart your claim.

After the first week has ended:

File your weekly claim.

Continue to file weekly claims:

Until you return to work, no longer need benefits or benefits are exhausted.

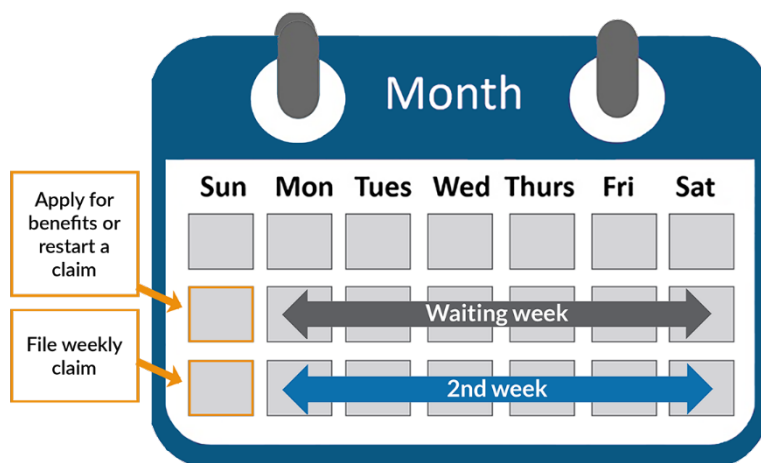
The fastest way to apply or restart a claim is to log in to secure.esd.wa.gov.

You can also restart a claim using our automated phone system. Call 800-318-6022 (WA Relay 711) from 12:01 a.m. Sunday until 4:00 p.m. Friday (or the last business day of the week).

We can help you apply for benefits or restart a claim with an agent by phone. Please call us the first week you want to claim benefits. High call volumes may require multiple attempts.

- The first week you claim and are eligible is your “waiting week.”
- You only have one waiting week each benefit year. Restarting a claim does require a second waiting week

You need to file a weekly claim for each week you want to receive unemployment benefits. Filing weekly helps with timely payment.



Find more details at esd.wa.gov/how-to-apply and esd.wa.gov/restart-your-claim.



eServices

secure.esd.wa.gov
Available: 24/7



Phone

800-318-6022 toll-free
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Employment Security Department is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. We provide free help in many languages. People who need hearing or speech help can dial 711 for the Washington Relay.