

Extended Benefits

- **What is the Extended Benefits program?**

During **periods of high unemployment, states who meet certain economic criteria may offer additional weeks of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits** under the federal-state Extended Benefits (EB) program.

- When a state meets the eligibility criteria and EB is payable, it is referred to as **triggering on** to an EB period.
 - When **Maryland is triggered on to an EB period**, eligible individuals may receive **up to an additional 13 weeks** of UI benefits.
- Once EB triggers off, the program is not available again until the 14th week after the end of the prior EB period. A state must meet eligibility criteria to offer EB again.

- **Who qualifies for EB and how can I apply?**

EB is available to eligible claimants (a claimant refers to an individual who submits a claim for UI benefits) who **exhaust regular UI benefits**.

- A claim is exhausted when a claimant receives the maximum amount of UI benefits the claimant qualified for in a benefit year (52 week period, beginning the Sunday before an initial claim was filed). A claimant's maximum benefit amount and monetary balance are listed in BEACON (under the Claim Information section of the portal's homepage).

NOTE: Claimants who qualified for regular UI benefits may not qualify for EB. The Maryland Division of Unemployment Insurance (the Division) will determine a claimant's eligibility after the claimant applies for EB.

- When EB is available in Maryland, individuals may apply online in [BEACON](#) or by **calling a claims agent at 667-207-6520** (Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.).

- **How much will I receive under EB?**

Under EB, the claimant's weekly benefit payment (referred to as the weekly benefit amount) is the same as the amount the claimant received under regular UI.

- For regular UI, the weekly benefit amount (WBA) in Maryland ranges from **\$50** (minimum) to **\$430** (maximum). An eligible claimant may receive an additional **dependents' allowance** (\$8 per dependent, up to five dependents). Even with dependents' allowance, the WBA will not exceed \$430.
- A claimant's WBA is based on the qualifying wages earned during the standard or alternate base period. For more about base periods, see the [Claims Filing - Initial Claims FAQs](#).

- **How do I know when EB is available?**

When EB is available, the Division will post information online at [MDunemployment.com](#) and also **provide written notice to all potentially-eligible claimants**.