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News Release

FEDERAL DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Workers in 12 Federally Declared Counties Eligible; Coverage Is Available For Those Whose Jobs Were Affected by the Storm and the Affected Self-Employed

SOMERSET, NJ – April 15, 2010 -- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today announced that Federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is available for persons, including self-employed individuals, who are unemployed as a direct result of damages caused by last month’s severe storms and flooding.

Individuals eligible for DUA benefits are those who work in one of 12 federally declared counties (Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Passaic, Somerset and Union) and lost their jobs directly due to the disaster. Those eligible may also include: (1) individuals who are unable to reach their job because they must travel through the affected area and are prevented by doing so by the disaster, (2) individuals who were to commence employment but were prevented by the disaster, (3) individuals who became the major support for a household because of the death of the head of household due to disaster, or (4) individuals who cannot work because of an injury caused as a direct result of the disaster.

The DUA program is part of the federal disaster assistance process, but is administered by the State of New Jersey’s Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD).

Residents who lost their jobs due to this disaster should file a claim for DUA benefits by calling a LWD Re-employment Call Center or by visiting the LWD One-Stop Career Center closest to their home and ask to use the computer system or courtesy phone.

The deadline for filing for DUA benefits is May 12, 2010. DUA claims filed after the deadline may be ineligible for payment.

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Disaster Unemployment Insurance

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Note: Those eligible for standard unemployment insurance benefits will not be eligible to receive DUA payments.

LWD Re-Employment Call Centers:

Union City: (201) 601-4100
Freehold: (732) 761-2020
Cumberland: (856) 507-2340

LWD One-Stop Career Centers:

For the location and hours of LWD One-Stop career centers throughout New Jersey, visit: <http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/wnpjpin/findjob/onestop/services.html>

For information on all New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development programs and services, visit <http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/index.html>

Register For Federal Disaster Assistance

To register for federal disaster assistance, residents of the federally declared counties should call FEMA's toll-free number, **1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY/TDD 1-800-462-7585** for people with speech and hearing disabilities (for relay service, call 711 or 1-800-852-7897) between 7 a.m. and 1 a.m., seven days a week. Multi-lingual operators are available to answer calls during this time. Residents may also register online anytime at www.disasterassistance.gov.

Receive up to the minute New Jersey disaster recovery information by following us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/femaregion2.

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FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders and to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.