



For Immediate Release  
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## **IWD Announces a Deadline Extension for Emergency Unemployment Insurance Benefits** *16,000 Iowans currently without benefits will be reactivated*

Des Moines – Director Elisabeth Buck announced today that Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) will begin immediate work to reactivate approximately 16,000 Iowans who may now be eligible for additional weeks of Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) benefits now that Congress has passed a deadline extension.

“Iowans have continued to struggle with the affects of the national recession,” stated Director Elisabeth Buck. “By extending the deadline for receiving EUC benefits to November 30<sup>th</sup>, Iowans will have the economic safety net in place while they seek new employment opportunities.”

Eligible claimants who have stopped receiving benefits since June 2<sup>nd</sup> will receive written notification for reactivating their claims. Initial payments for individuals who continued with their weekly reporting will begin seeing benefits paid on approximately July 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Claimants needing to add past weeks will be able to do so via the toll-free system at 800-850-5627 or online at <https://uiclaims.iwd.iowa.gov/weeklyclaims/> beginning Tuesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. If a claimant is unable to report weeks via the 800 number or online system, staff at one of the 55 field offices across the state will provide assistance.

The Worker Assistance Act of 2009 provides the framework for the emergency unemployment benefits. The program is designed to lessen the effects of unemployment during difficult economic times. In all, Iowans are eligible for up to 47 weeks of additional benefits once their initial weeks are exhausted. Emergency benefits are paid by the federal government and do not effect Iowa’s Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund solvency.

At this time, the federal Emergency Unemployment Benefits program is set to expire on November 30, 2010. In order to receive additional benefits, an individual must have exhausted their regular benefits or first two tiers of benefits prior to November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Iowa Workforce Development has developed a comprehensive program to assist unemployed workers. The program includes a wide variety of assistance designed to get Iowans back to work. This comprehensive services package includes retraining assistance, help with identifying new employment opportunities, resume writing and interview skills, job placement assistance, and connections to additional services such as health insurance for children and other human services needs.

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