

Unemployment Benefits for Ex-Service Members

Am I Eligible for Unemployment Insurance Benefits?

If you were on active duty in the U.S. military, you may be entitled to unemployment benefits based on your service. You must have **completed your first full term of service** and **been separated under honorable conditions**. If you have not completed your first full term of service, you may still be eligible depending on the reason you were separated from the military.

Where Can I File?

You may file in any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands. You must be physically present in the state when you file to establish a claim there, but you do not need to live in that state. Payment amount is based on your military rank at the time of your separation from service. Each state has its own formula for calculating the weekly and total benefit amounts, and they vary from state to state. Below is the list of maximum weekly benefit amounts per neighboring state as of 2017. Please contact the state to verify, as weekly benefit amounts can change:

State	Max Weekly Benefit	Phone	Website
Idaho	\$448	(208) 332-8942	labor.idaho.gov/claimantportal
Montana	\$552	(406) 247-1000	https://app.mt.gov/ui4u/index
Wyoming*	\$508	(866) 729-7799	doe.state.wy.us/lnetClaims/
Washington	\$844	(800) 318-6022	https://esd.wa.gov/
Oregon	\$648	(877) 345-3484	http://www.oregon.gov/employ/
Utah	\$580	(888) 848-0688	https://jobs.utah.gov/
Nevada	\$469	(888) 890-8211	www.ui.nv.gov

*Wyoming does not have a Waiting Week

How Do I File?

Applications are accepted online or over the phone, depending on the where you file your claim. You may be required to provide a copy of your DD214, which can be requested at www.ebenefits.va.gov or www.archives.gov.

If you file in Idaho, file at labor.idaho.gov/claimantportal and fax a copy of your DD214 to (208) 334-6400, Attention: Benefits. If you do not have Internet access, you can use a computer at any local Department of Labor office (<https://labor.idaho.gov/officedirectory>).

When Can I File My Claim?

File your claim as soon as you are discharged from active duty and able and available for work. ***Your claim cannot be accepted before your separation date.***

Do I Qualify for Benefits if I Retire from the Military Service?

It depends. If you retired from the military within the last two years, your monthly retirement may be pro-rated and deducted from your weekly benefit amount dollar for dollar. If your prorated weekly pension amount is equal to or more than your weekly benefit amount, you may be ineligible for benefits.

When Will I Start Receiving My Benefits?

Payment is generally issued at least two weeks after you file for benefits. To ensure timely payment, submit your weekly certifications and provide your DD214 in a timely manner.

Are Payments Automatic?

No. To receive benefits, you must meet certain eligibility requirements. All states require that you must be physically able and available to work for each week you claim benefits. The state you file against will tell you if there are additional requirements that you must meet.

Can You Help Me Find Work?

Yes. Veterans have employment benefits called [Priority of Service](#), and we have veteran representatives located throughout the state to help. Find the nearest representative here: <http://labor.idaho.gov/dnn/idl/JobSeekers/VeteransServices/VeteranReps.aspx>

Help is available, free of charge, at any of our 25 Department of Labor offices. You can also access job information on the Labor [website](#). Workshops on resume writing, interviewing and more are available. Check the [calendar](#) for specific dates. We offer many free services, including workshops on specific work search topics.

If you were working before you entered the service and wish to return, contact your pre-service employer to determine if you have reemployment rights with them. For information or assistance determining your reemployment rights call the U.S. Department of Labor/Vets at (208) 332- 3570, ext. 3610.