

Update on the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Program (EUC)

The *American Jobs Act* restores the federal emergency unemployment compensation (EUC) program until November 2010 for eligible individuals who have been unemployed for six months and have exhausted their state unemployment benefits. EUC provides up to a total of 99 weeks of federal unemployment compensation if a State's unemployment rate is equal to or greater than 8.5%. This extension **does not** provide more benefit weeks for individuals who have already collected the maximum 99 weeks of EUC. The *American Jobs Act* also extends the 100% federal funding of the Extended Benefits (EB) program through November 2010.

The penalty for EUC beneficiaries who worked part-time or short-term jobs and had their benefit amount reduced has been eliminated with this legislation. Senator Lieberman has been a strong supporter of fixing the provisions that created disincentives for the unemployed to find work opportunities and was the first Member of Congress to raise this issue in either chamber.

The Connecticut Department of Labor administers all EUC and state unemployment benefits for Connecticut residents and can provide specific eligibility information for claimants. Individuals must contact the Connecticut Department of Labor to begin an unemployment claim by calling the TeleBenefits line toll-free at 1-800-942-6653 or by visiting the Department of Labor's website at www.ct.gov/dol.