

Serving California's 53rd Congressional District

## The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

# **Unemployment Insurance**

### **Description**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act continues a current extension of unemployment benefits. Under previous law, the extension would have been phased out in March 2009. The recovery act provides unemployed workers with up to 33 weeks of extended benefits. The law also increases the current average unemployment benefit by \$25 per week through December 31, 2009 and exempts the first \$2,400 of unemployment benefits from federal income tax for tax year 2009.

#### **Eligibility**

To be entitled to benefits you must be out of work due to no fault of your own, be physically able to work, be actively seeking work and be ready to accept work. You may contact the California Employment Development Department (EDD) for further eligibility information and to file a claim.

#### How to obtain the benefit

The federal extension will be available when your initial unemployment insurance benefits run out. EDD will notify current claimants that they may file for the federal extension when their initial benefits run out. For information on the federal extension, please visit <u>http://www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/Extended\_Benefit\_Information.htm</u>.

#### **Questions or Help**

California Employment Development Department: 1-800-300-5616 Your State Representative (for help with EDD):

- State Senator Christine Kehoe: (619) 645-3133
- State Senator Denise Moreno Duchéney: (619) 409-7690
- State Assemblymember Nathan Fletcher: (858) 689-6290
- State Assemblymember Lori Saldana: (619) 645-3090
- State Assemblymember Marty Block: (619) 462-7878
- State Assemblymember Mary Salas : (619) 409-7979

Office of Congresswoman Susan Davis (619) 280-5353