

# Unemployment insurance 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 eligible for unemployment benefits. This depends on your service. You must have **completed your first full term of service and been separated under honorable conditions**. If you haven't completed your first full term of service, you may still be eligible. This depends on your past civilian work and 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 physically be in the state where you file your claim, but you don't need to live in that state. Payment amount is based on your military rank when you separated from service. Each state has its own formula for calculating weekly and total benefit amounts. Below is the list of maximum weekly benefit amounts per neighboring state as of 2023. Please contact the state to verify, as weekly amounts may change.

State	Max weekly benefit	Contact information	
Idaho	\$590	(208) 332-8942	<a href="http://labor.idaho.gov">labor.idaho.gov</a>
Montana	\$732	(406) 444-2545	<a href="http://montanaworks.gov">montanaworks.gov</a>
Nevada	\$604	(888) 890-8211	<a href="http://ui.nv.gov">ui.nv.gov</a>
Oregon	\$836	(877) 345-3484	<a href="http://oregon.gov">oregon.gov</a>
Utah	\$777	(888) 848-0688	<a href="http://jobs.utah.gov">jobs.utah.gov</a>
Washington	\$1,079	(800) 318-6022	<a href="http://esd.wa.gov">esd.wa.gov</a>
Wyoming*	\$624	(307) 473-3789	<a href="http://dws.wyo.gov">dws.wyo.gov</a>

\* Wyoming does not have a waiting week.

## HOW DO YOU FILE?

You can apply online or over the phone. How you file depends on the where you file your claim. You may need to give us a copy of your DD214. You can request this form at [ebenefits.va.gov](http://ebenefits.va.gov) or [archives.gov](http://archives.gov).

If you file in Idaho, file through the [Claimant Portal](#). Fax a copy of your DD214 to (208) 334-6400, Attention: Benefits. If you don't have access to internet, you can use a computer at any of the department's [local offices](#).

## WHEN CAN I FILE MY CLAIM?

File your claim as soon as you are discharged from active duty. You must also be 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 (2) years, your monthly retirement may be divided into weekly amounts. This amount will be subtracted from your weekly benefit. If your weekly pension amount is equal to or more than your weekly benefit amount, you won't be eligible for benefits.

## **WHEN WILL I START GETTING MY BENEFITS?**

You will typically be paid at least two (2) weeks after you file for benefits. To be paid on time, file your weekly certifications and your DD214 in a timely manner.

## **ARE PAYMENTS AUTOMATIC?**

No. To get benefits, you must be eligible. All states need you to be physically able and available to work for each week you claim benefits. The state you file in will tell you what else you must do to get benefits.

## **ARE PAYMENTS AUTOMATIC?**

Yes. Veterans have employment benefits called [Priority of Service](#). Your nearest veterans representative will help you use these benefits and find work.

You can consult a veteran representative at many of our local offices. Make an appointment for free assistance. Find your local office at [labor.idaho.gov/officedirectory](http://labor.idaho.gov/officedirectory).

You can also access job information at [labor.idaho.gov](http://labor.idaho.gov). Workshops on resume writing, interviewing and more are available. Check the [calendar of events](#) for specific dates.

If you were working before you entered the services and wish to return, contact your preservice employer. You may have reemployment rights with them.