



DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (DUA)

VIRGIN ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Purpose

Disaster Unemployment Assistance provides financial assistance to individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster and who are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits.

Eligibility

When a major disaster has been declared by the President, DUA is generally available to any unemployed worker or self-employed individual who lived, worked, or was scheduled to work in the disaster area at the time of the disaster; and due to the disaster:

- No longer has a job or a place to work,
- Cannot reach the place of work,
- Cannot work due to damage to the place of work, or
- Cannot work because of an injury caused by the disaster.

An individual who becomes the head of household and is seeking work because the former head of household died as a result of the disaster may also qualify for DUA benefits.

Benefits

DUA benefits are payable to individuals (whose unemployment continues to be a result of the major disaster) only for weeks of unemployment in the Disaster Assistance Period (DAP). The DAP begins with the first day of the week following the date the major disaster began and continues for up to 27 weeks after the date the disaster was declared by the President.

The minimum weekly benefit amount for the Virgin Islands is \$167.00. The maximum weekly benefit amount payable is determined under the provisions of the state law for unemployment compensation in the state where the disaster occurred.

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