
FEDERAL SHUTDOWN: INDIANA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Last revised on January 30, 2026

If you have been furloughed as a direct result of the federal government shutdown, you may be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits

Q1: What is a furlough?

A1: Temporary, unpaid leave of federal employees due to lack of funding.

Q2: What happens when the federal government issues backpay to me for the time of the shutdown.

A2: After the federal government gives you backpay for the work you missed during the furlough, DWD will send you an overpayment notice. You must repay any unemployment benefits you received during the time of the shutdown.

Q3: I am a federal employee and am now furloughed from employment. What information do I need to file for unemployment?

A3: As a federal employee, your earnings will not immediately be available to DWD. Gather this paperwork and provide copies to DWD upon request:

- Standard Form 8, Notice to Federal Employee About Unemployment Insurance
- Furlough notice or Standard Form 50, Notification of Personnel Action
- Pay stubs (from 15 months prior to your last date of work)
- W-2

Q4: I am a federal employee and am now furloughed from employment. In what state should I file for unemployment?

A4: You can file in Indiana if you were a former federal civilian employee and:

- Your last official duty station was in Indiana; or
- You are resident of Indiana, and your last official duty station was outside the United States; or
- You were employed in Indiana after separation from your federal employer.

If none of those apply to you, file a claim in the state or district where your last official duty station or residence is (if your duty station was outside of the United States or you separated from federal employment and then worked in non-federal employment).

Q5: I am a federal employee and am now furloughed from employment. How do I file for unemployment?

A5: Create an account [here](#) and file a claim. If you were a federal civilian employee, add the Federal Employment to your employment history timeline. Do not add the employment as Indiana Employment since it is Federal Employment:

The screenshot shows the 'Employment History' section of a claim process. At the top, there is a progress bar with six steps: 1. Claim Introduction (green), 2. Employment History (blue), 3. Income (grey), 4. Ability to Work (grey), 5. Miscellaneous (grey), and 6. Verify/Submit Claim (grey). Below the progress bar, the 'Employment History' section is displayed. It includes a 'Show 5 entries' dropdown, a 'Filter:' input field, and a table with columns for 'Employer Name', 'Employer Business Activity', 'Start Date', and 'End Date'. The table currently shows 'No Employment History Records Available'. Below the table, there are four buttons: 'Add Indiana Employment', 'Add Military Employment', 'Add Federal Employment' (circled in black), and 'Add Out of State Employment'. At the bottom, there is a question: 'Have you worked for any Federal civilian employers at any time since 04/01/2024?' with 'Yes' and 'No' buttons. The 'Yes' button is circled in black.

You should choose your employer from the drop-down list or type it in if you do not see it on the drop-down list.

Q6: I am a federal employee and am now furloughed from employment. Am I eligible for unemployment?

A6: You are eligible for unemployment if you are furloughed, not working, and have enough earnings in the base period of your claim. If you are not working for a reason other than furlough, your eligibility will be further investigated and decided using Indiana state law.

Q7: Do I have to look for work if I file for unemployment benefits due to being furloughed?

A7: No, because you have a job to go back to. If you are permanently separated from employment, then you will need to do at least two [work search activities](#) each week.

Q8: What if I am one of the “essential” federal workers who are required to continue to work full time with no pay?

A8: You are not eligible for benefits if you are working full time even if you are not being paid.

Q9: When I file my claim, what option should I choose as my reason for separation from the federal government?

A9: If you are unemployed because of the current federal government shutdown, please select the separation reason of: “This employer told me that no work was available.” If you are unemployed for a different reason, choose the reason that describes why you are unemployed.

Q10: What should I put in the “approximate date to start full-time work” section?

A10: When you file your online application, you will be asked if you have a definite date to return to full-time work. If your employer has given you this date, select yes and enter the date. If not, answer no to this question.

Q11: What should I do after I file my claim?

A11: After you file your claim, you should get a Federal Employment Coversheet. Read the coversheet document and send the information back to DWD by the deadline. A claim specialist will contact you and help you with next steps.

Q12: How do I cancel my claim once I return to work?

A12: When you return to work, stop filing your weekly vouchers. Even though you are no longer claiming, keep your contact information up to date to receive year-end tax information.

Q13: If I am no longer employed because of a reduction in force (RIF), am I eligible for unemployment?

A13: Maybe. File a claim and your separation will be investigated. Indiana law is used to decide if you qualify for unemployment.

Q14: If I am no longer employed because of the Deferred Resignation Program (DRP), am I eligible for unemployment?

A14: Maybe. File a claim and your separation will be investigated. Indiana law is used to decide if you qualify for unemployment.

Q15: What should I do if I already filed a claim during the shutdown at the end of 2025?

A15: [Log into your Claimant Self-Service account](#) and see if you are asked to file a claim or file a voucher.

- If you are asked to file a claim, enter your Federal Employment as shown in A5 above.
- If you are asked to file a voucher, select the week you are unemployed and enter your Federal Employment as shown in A5 above.