

Program Name: Unemployment Insurance (UI)

Also known as Unemployment Compensation

Agency: Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA)

Description: An employer funded and state managed program which provides temporary cash benefits to unemployed individuals who recently lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

Website: www.mass.gov/dua

Also see the websites of Boston's Career Centers: www.mass.gov/lwd/employment-services/one-stop-career-centers/connectjobs/ & www.bostoncareerlink.org/

Eligibility:

Must have worked approximately 15 weeks in roughly the past 15 months and earned at least \$4,300.

Availability/Limitations:

Must be able, available to and looking for work to qualify. Yes, can work while collecting unemployment but must report earnings to DUA and unemployment benefits may be scaled back proportionately. One can collect full benefits for up to 30 weeks/year, but this is capped at 26 weeks in Massachusetts for people receiving extended benefits. Individuals in approved job training programs may receive up to an additional 26 weeks.

Unemployment benefits are taxable. An individual can have taxes withheld from weekly check or send in withholding amount to IRS his/herself. If individual is working a bit while receiving unemployment, he/she can stretch out checks beyond the 30 weeks.

Immigrants: Available to all legal workers.

Amount:

~50% of prior gross (total) weekly pay, up to a maximum of \$742 + \$25/dependent child per week if recipient is the sole wage earner in the family (Note: the \$25/child can't add up to more than the 50% of total pay above).

How to Apply:

To file a claim, call the Teleclaim Center at 1-617-626-6800 or 1-877-626-6800.

Walk-in Centers located at One-Stop Career Centers: www.mass.gov/careercenters

The One-Stop Career Centers are a state-run system of 30+ centers offering employment and job training services. They offer multiple services beyond applying for unemployment, including job training seminars, job search help, job listings and community service placement.

Linked Services? Worker and family may be eligible for help with health insurance coverage through MassHealth. Apply online through the state's new Health Connector website, www.mahealthconnector.org, by phone 1-877-623-6765 or in person at a MassHealth Enrollment Center.

Right to appeal? If disqualified, will receive written notice of appeal. Must file appeal request in writing within 10 days of disqualification.

Retroactive? Yes, Massachusetts will pay benefits retroactively from the date filed as long as payments are requested during the weeks that claim is being processed.