

Click Bishop  
Commissioner

P.O. Box 111149  
Juneau, AK 99811-1149  
www.labor.alaska.gov



Beth Leschper  
Communications Director  
907.465.2700  
cell: 907.723.1321  
beth.leschper@alaska.gov

## Press Release

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For more information: Bill Kramer, Chief of Unemployment Insurance  
907-465-2712, [Bill.Kramer@Alaska.Gov](mailto:Bill.Kramer@Alaska.Gov)

### **Unemployed Alaskans May Be Eligible for an Additional 14 Weeks of Benefits**

JUNEAU, Alaska—The Worker, Homeownership and Business Assistance Act of 2009 authorizes federal funds for 14 additional weeks of Emergency Unemployment Compensation benefits. The act includes an additional extension of six weeks of benefits for states with an unemployment rate of at least 8.5 percent for three consecutive months. Alaska's current unemployment rate is 8.4 percent.

"Due to the nature of Alaska's workforce, the seasonal unemployment rate is typically high and these additional benefits will help many hard-working Alaskans support their families while they look for work," said Tom Nelson, director of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Employment Security Division.

The measure applies to those individuals who are receiving or have received federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation prior to December 31, 2009. Unemployed workers are eligible to receive the same weekly benefit amount they received during their most recent unemployment benefit claim.

The Alaska Department of Labor will notify potentially eligible Alaskans who are receiving or have previously received federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation. Those filing for regular unemployment will be notified of potential eligibility as they exhaust their benefits. Individuals who never filed for the extension program or think they are eligible are encouraged to file a claim online at <https://myalaska.state.ak.us/home/app>.

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