



## How to apply for unemployment benefits

The fastest way to apply for benefits is online. While you can file by phone, you should expect extended wait times. There are no in-person unemployment offices in Washington state. Even if you go to a WorkSource office, you will still be directed to apply for unemployment benefits online or by phone. These steps will help guide you through the process.

### Step 1:

#### Eligibility

If you're out of work, and not sure if you're eligible for unemployment benefits, please use the links below for information about your possible eligibility.

- If you were laid off as a result of COVID-19, you are likely eligible. See the [COVID-19 page](#) for details about changes to eligibility.
- Before applying, download the [unemployment application checklist](#) to prepare.
- If you are unsure of your eligibility after reading the guides below, apply anyway. Complete the application as best you can and we will follow up with you as soon as possible.

### Step 2:

#### Apply online or by phone

Whether you apply online or by phone, be sure to have the [necessary information ready before you start](#). Both systems will "time out" after a short period to protect the security of your personal information.

[Have this information ready](#) | [Online application questions](#) | [Phone application questions](#)

Apply online 24 hours a day, seven days a week with [eServices](#). It's much faster. You must use a laptop or desktop computer for this initial step—not a mobile device.

Need help applying? Start with the [eServices User Guide](#) or read [technical support FAQs](#).