

# Extended Unemployment Benefits in 2002

# NELP

## Fact Sheet for Workers

Advocating for the working poor and the unemployed

## Know Your Rights

Employment Law  
Clinic for Low-Wage  
and Immigrant  
Workers

Free legal assistance  
is available by  
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(212) 417-3800 on  
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(888) 218-6974 on  
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The clinic is a joint  
project with the Legal  
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### The Basics: 13 Extra Weeks of Benefits in 2002

In response to the lack of jobs after September 11, the federal government and New York State created a special, temporary program that allows unemployed workers to receive unemployment insurance benefits for an additional 13 weeks, on top of the usual 26 weeks.

### The Details: Who Is Eligible For Extended Benefits?

Extended benefits are generally available if you are unemployed and

1. You originally filed for unemployment benefits on *March 13, 2000 or later*; and
2. You cannot claim any more regular unemployment benefits (also known as “exhausting” your benefits). This could be *either* because you have already used up your 26 weeks of benefits *or* because your “benefit year” has already ended.

In addition, most of the usual unemployment insurance requirements also apply, such as

- You must have lost your most recent job through no fault of your own;
- You must currently be unemployed, or partially unemployed; and
- You must currently be able to work and be looking for work.

Extended benefits are available *only* for the weeks between March 11, 2002 and December 28, 2002. You can claim a maximum of 13 weeks of extended benefits during this period.

### What Next: How to Apply for Extended Benefits

There are two different ways to claim your extended benefits. Choosing the right one depends on whether or not the “benefit year” from your original claim has already ended. The “benefit year” lasts roughly one year from the day you originally applied for unemployment benefits. You can find out when your “benefit year” ends or ended by looking for the “claim ending date” or “BYE” on documents that the Department of Labor sent you about your claim.

*If your benefit year has already ended:*

**Call the Telephone Claims Center, (888) 209-8124, and file a new claim.**

*If your benefit year has not yet ended:*

**Call the Tel-Service Line, (212) 352-2631 in New York City, and choose “1” to claim your weekly benefit, or claim on-line at <http://www.labor.state.ny.us/>.**

For more information about unemployment insurance, read NELP’s fact sheets called

- *Benefits for Unemployed Workers*
- *Getting Unemployment Benefits and Keeping Them*
- *Were You Turned Down for Unemployment Benefits?*