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Deadline approaching for McDowell and Raleigh county residents to apply for DUA

CHARLESTON, W.Va. –Gov. Joe Manchin and WorkForce West Virginia announced last month that West Virginians living or working in McDowell and Raleigh counties who are unemployed due to the recent severe storms, flooding, mudslides and landslides may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA). **Residents in these two counties have until June 29, 2009, to file claim.**

The benefits cover self-employed workers not usually entitled to unemployment insurance, including farmers. At the time DUA claims are filed, applicants will need to provide proof of past earnings, such as business records or bank statements, as well as their most recent income tax forms. Funds for this program are provided by the federal government and do not come from the state employer payroll taxes used to finance regular unemployment benefits.

Any WorkForce West Virginia Career Center can accept DUA claims, including the following offices serving the affected counties: Beckley, Logan, Princeton and Welch.

In addition to individuals who lost their jobs directly due to the severe storms and flooding, those eligible for benefits may also include: (1) individuals who are unable to reach their job or self-employment location because they must travel through the affected area and are prevented from doing so by the disaster, (2) individuals who were to commence employment or self-employment but were prevented by the disaster, (3) individuals who became the main source of income or major support for a household because of the death of the head of household due to the disaster, or (4) individuals who cannot work or perform services in self-employment because of an injury caused as a direct result of the disaster.

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Unemployment is a direct result of the major disaster if the unemployment resulted from: (1) the physical damage or destruction of the place of employment; (2) the physical inaccessibility of the place of employment due to its closure by federal, state or local government in immediate response to the disaster; or (3) lack of work or loss of revenues, if, prior to the disaster, the employer or self-employed business received at least a majority of its revenue or income from an entity in the major disaster area that was damaged or destroyed in the disaster, or an entity in the major disaster area was closed by federal, state or local government.

For more information on DUA, call 304-558-3309.

In addition to disaster unemployment assistance, WorkForce West Virginia Career Centers offer re-employment services, including testing, counseling and job placement. For more information, visit www.workforcewv.org or call 1-800-252-JOBS(5627); TDD: 304-558-1549.

WorkForce West Virginia is an equal opportunity employer/program and auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

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