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RESIDENTS IN TWO COUNTIES ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT FUNDS

Charleston, W.Va. – Gov. Joe Manchin announced today that Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits are now available to qualifying persons residing or working in Mingo and Wyoming counties. The areas were given major disaster status by Gov. Manchin and President Obama on May 15, 2009.

“Individuals who live or work in either of these affected counties and have lost their jobs due to the recent inclement weather should apply for these federal benefits,” said Michael Moore, director for the Unemployment Compensation Division. The DUA applies to the severe storms, flooding, mudslides and landslides that occurred beginning May 2, 2009.

According to Moore, claims need to be filed by June 18, 2009. 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.

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

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Residents in two counties eligible to apply for federal disaster unemployment funds

In addition to individuals who lost their jobs directly due to the severe storms, flooding and tornadoes, 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.

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.

In addition to DUA assistance, WORKFORCE West Virginia Career Centers offer re-employment services, including testing, counseling and job placement.

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