



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO OKLAHOMA COUNTIES NOW ELIGIBLE FOR DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK (July 9, 2007) – In the wake of severe storms, flooding and tornadoes that occurred in the state on June 10, 2007, and continuing, a major disaster has been declared for Ottawa and Washington counties in northeastern Oklahoma. This means that effective July 7, 2007, residents of these two counties are eligible to apply for disaster unemployment assistance (DUA). DUA provides financial support to individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster. Individuals who qualify for normal unemployment benefits are not eligible for DUA.

Those, including the self-employed, who lived or worked in Ottawa or Washington county at the time of the major disaster, and who are unemployed as a direct result of the major disaster, may be eligible for DUA. The first payable week for disaster unemployment assistance is the week beginning June 17, 2007. DUA applications will be taken for a 30-day period ending at the close of business on August 8, 2007. To file for disaster unemployment assistance, an individual must first establish a regular state unemployment claim. Individuals calling within the Oklahoma City metropolitan area can dial 525-1500 to establish a claim and start the DUA process. Those outside of the Oklahoma City metropolitan area should call (800) 555-1554.

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