

**From:** Bouyea, Robert <[RBouyea@dew.sc.gov](mailto:RBouyea@dew.sc.gov)>  
**To:** Bouyea, Robert [RBouyea@dew.sc.gov](mailto:RBouyea@dew.sc.gov)  
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**Subject:** Three additional counties affected by Hurricane Matthew eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance

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SC Department of Employment and Workforce

## NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:  
Robert Bouyea  
[rbouyea@dew.sc.gov](mailto:rbouyea@dew.sc.gov)  
(803) 737-2623

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### **Three additional counties affected by Hurricane Matthew eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance**

COLUMBIA – Gov. Nikki Haley and the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce announced today that Berkeley, Charleston, and Chesterfield counties are eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA). Funds will be made available to assist people who became unemployed as a direct result of Hurricane Matthew.

Previously announced counties eligible for DUA assistance are Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Calhoun, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Orangeburg, Sumter and Williamsburg. Other counties may be added at a later date.

The DUA program makes funds available to assist people who became unemployed as a direct result of Hurricane Matthew. It also is available to small business owners and the self-employed, including 1099 contract workers, who lost personal income due to the disaster.

DEW Executive Director Cheryl Stanton said South Carolina workers may be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits under the DUA program.

Workers or business owners meeting the following criteria may be eligible for benefits:

- Individuals who are unemployed due to the disaster, and do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits.
- Self-employed individuals and small business owners who lost income due to the disaster.
- Individuals who were prevented from working due to an injury caused by the disaster.
- Individuals who have become the major supplier of household income due to the disaster-related death or injury of the previous major supplier of household income.
- 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.
- Individuals who were to commence employment or self-employment but were prevented by the disaster.

Individuals must first apply for regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. To apply, call 1-866-831-1724 or go to [mybenefits.dew.sc.gov](https://mybenefits.dew.sc.gov). The deadline for applying is 30 calendar days from the date that DEW announces the availability of DUA in the county. If the individual is found to be ineligible for UI benefits, a DEW representative will contact them directly and will assist with the DUA application.

Applications filed after the deadline will be considered untimely and DUA benefits may be denied unless the individual provides good cause for filing after that date. Applicants must submit their Social Security number, check stubs and other documentation to support the claim that they were working or self-employed when the disaster occurred. In some cases, additional documentation may be required.

Please check [www.dew.sc.gov/dua](https://www.dew.sc.gov/dua) for updates on this program.

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### ***About DEW***

*The S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce is putting South Carolinians to work. The agency invests in building a pipeline of quality workers, matches workers with jobs, and is a bridge for individuals who find themselves out of work for no fault of their own. This promotes financial stability and economic prosperity for employers, individuals and communities. **DEW** is dedicated to advancing South Carolina through services that meet the needs of the state's businesses, jobseekers and those looking to advance their careers.*