

Eligibility For Unemployment Benefits



The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) administers an unemployment insurance program that provides temporary benefits to individuals who become unemployed through no fault of their own. Benefits are paid through taxes on employers covered under the Virginia Unemployment Compensation Act. In order to receive unemployment benefits you must meet certain requirements.

Not every applicant will qualify to receive benefits.

Below is a summary of eligibility standards.

- **Place of Employment:** Applicants should file a claim in the state where they work. If an applicant lives in Virginia but worked for an employer outside of Virginia, the applicant may not be eligible for Virginia Unemployment Insurance benefits.
- **Monetary Qualification:** Did the applicant earn enough during the qualification period to receive benefits? If no, the applicant likely is not eligible for Virginia unemployment benefits.
 - » An individual's monetary qualification is generally determined by their base period wages prior to becoming unemployed. The base period is the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters prior to the date of your claim. A person must earn at least \$3,000 in their base period.
 - * Example: If an individual filed a claim on May 28, 2020, the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters for the individual's base period would include: January 1 – March 31, 2019; April 1 – June 30, 2019; July 1 – September 30, 2019; and October 1 – December 31, 2019.
- **Separation Qualification:** If the applicant was fired for misconduct or quit without good cause, he or she is not eligible for Virginia unemployment benefits.
 - » Applicants typically must have separated from their employer as a result of layoff or furlough. If the applicant separated for another reason, the Virginia Employment Commission generally will require additional information from the applicant and their employer detailing the reason for separation.
- **Earned Income:** If an applicant lost a part-time job, or had his or her hours reduced, but is still earning weekly wages that exceed the weekly benefit for which he or she qualifies, the applicant will not qualify for benefits.
- **Weekly Eligibility Qualification:** Individuals must file a weekly request for each week they wish to claim. There are a variety of [weekly eligibility requirements](#) that must be met.

For more details on eligibility, qualifications, and special circumstances, visit:

<https://www.vec.virginia.gov/unemployed/Claimant-Handbook>