



**For Immediate Release
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IWD Announces Extended Emergency Unemployment Insurance Benefits

Des Moines – Director Elisabeth Buck announced today that notices will be mailed from Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) to Iowans who may be eligible for the extended emergency unemployment insurance benefits if their previous benefits are currently exhausted. Individuals who are still receiving their unemployment benefits will continue with their weekly reporting to receive the extension. Iowans who currently remain unemployed may file a new claim online at www.iowaworkforce.org. Individuals who do not receive a letter notifying them of their eligibility, but who believe they are eligible for the benefits, should contact their local IWD Office.

“As the national economy remains sluggish, this extension of benefits provides an additional economic safety net for Iowans in need,” stated Iowa Workforce Development Director, Elisabeth Buck. “The Department is working to insure the extension benefits are paid next week.”

Iowa Workforce Development has developed a comprehensive program to assist displaced workers. When a business closes or when workers are laid-off, Iowa officials respond rapidly by providing a package of services to those individuals impacted. The economic security package includes a wide variety of assistance designed to get dislocated Iowans back to work. This comprehensive services package includes retraining assistance, help with identifying new employment opportunities, résumé writing and interview skills, job placement assistance, and connections to additional services such as health insurance for children and other human services needs.

The Extended Compensation Act of 2008 was recently signed into law by the President. The program is designed to lessen the effects of unemployment during difficult economic times. This program provides a maximum of an additional seven weeks of extended unemployment benefits to eligible Iowans who have exhausted their regular benefits and the previous 13 week extension signed into law over the summer. Emergency benefits are paid by the federal government and do not effect Iowa’s Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund solvency.

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