



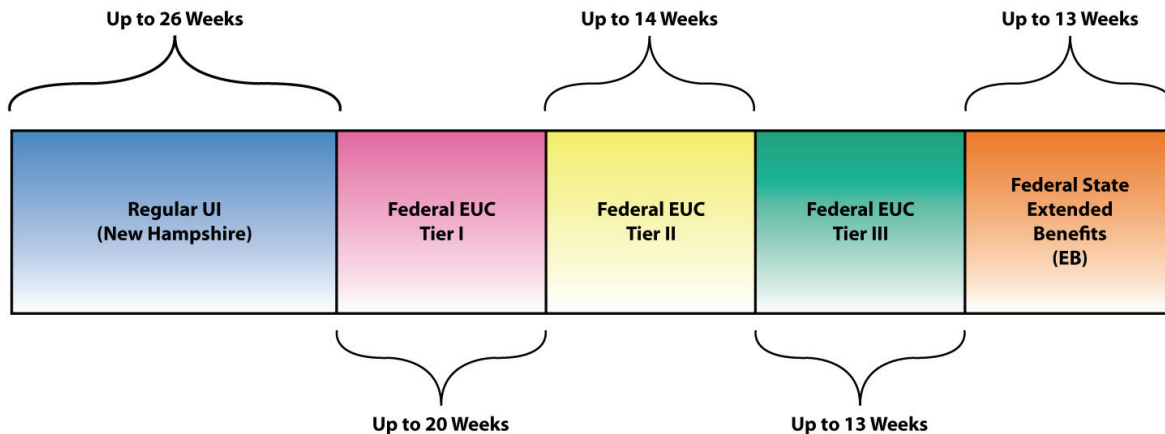
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **DECEMBER 23, 2009**

State of New Hampshire Extends Filing Period for Extension of Emergency Unemployment Compensation

Concord – On Friday, November 6, 2009, President Obama signed the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 into law. On Saturday, December 19, 2009, the President signed an amendment to the Act that extends the filing period for eligibility. The new law provides additional weeks of Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) for thousands of NH Residents who have exhausted all unemployment benefits or will by the end of the year. This new extension is positive news for the jobless workers in New Hampshire that have been struggling with the loss of employment during these tough economic times.

The November law created a third “tier” of Emergency Unemployment Compensation that the state of New Hampshire qualifies for, which is an additional 13 weeks of benefits. This additional benefit went to states where the insured unemployment rate was at least 4 percent or the total unemployment rate of at least 6 percent. The law also increased the EUC Second Tier benefits by 1 week for a total of 14 weeks of benefits.

The timeline of unemployment benefits and duration are indicated in the chart below.



- An individual may qualify for a higher Tier if s/he exhausts an EUC08 Tier by week ending February 27, 2010. (prior date was December 26, 2009).
 - ✓ If an individual exhausts EUC08 First Tier (Tier I) on or before week ending February 27, 2010 the individual may qualify for EUC08 Second Tier (Tier II).
 - ✓ If an individual exhausts EUC08 Second Tier (14th week) (Tier II) on or before week ending February 27, 2010, the individual may qualify for EUC08 Third Tier (Tier III).
 - ✓ The period which an individual may initially establish eligibility for Federal Additional Compensation (FAC) is extended to weeks of unemployment ending on or before February 28, 2010 (prior date was December 26, 2009).
 - ✓ The expiration date of the FAC program (the end of the “phase-out” period) is extended. FAC is now payable through August 31, 2010 (prior date was June 5, 2010).

NH Employment Security (NHES) has individuals that are currently collecting benefits under the Extended Benefits program because they previously exhausted their EUC – Tier II. Those individuals will continue filing their weekly claims for benefits each week until they exhaust this program. Once an individual has exhausted, or if an individual has already exhausted the EB program, an individual may be eligible to collect EUC – Tier III.

It is the top priority of NH Employment Security to pay eligible customers as quickly as possible and we will do our best to assist customers during their transitions between unemployment compensation programs. If you have any questions about whether you should be filing for the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) Third Tier, please contact the customer service line at 1-800-266-2252.

For contact information and directions to Employment Security offices go to www.nh.gov/nhes. For all other unemployment questions call the NH Employment Security Customer Service Line at 1-800-266-2252.

END

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NEWS RELEASE

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