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Press Release

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Additional Communities Eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance; Must Apply By Aug. 8

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaskans living in the Yupiit and Lower Yukon regional educational attendance areas may now be eligible for disaster unemployment assistance if they have been unable to work or unable to pursue their own business as a direct result of the disaster.

Additional communities have been added to the federal disaster declaration resulting from the 2009 Yukon Kuskokwim flooding, including Akiak, Akiachak, Tuluksak, Emmonak, Russian, Mission, Kotlik and Alakanuk as well as other communities within the areas affected by flooding.

“Eligible Alaskans may receive weekly payments of up to \$370, plus dependents’ allowance, for up to 26 weeks,” said Bill Kramer, chief of Unemployment Insurance. “Anyone wishing to apply should call 1-888-252-2557 and ask for Disaster Unemployment Assistance.”

Individuals may apply for DUA if they:

- Have exhausted entitlement to regular unemployment insurance benefits.
- Have been working or living in an area covered by the disaster declaration.
- Became unemployed or unable to work as a direct result of the flood.
- Are unable to reach their place of business as a direct result of the flood.
- Were scheduled to begin work and do not have a job or are unable to reach the job as a direct result of the flood.
- Cannot work due to an injury caused by the flood.
- Have become the major support of the household due to a death directly related to the flood.

Applicants will need to provide social security number, contact information for their most recent employer and dates worked. Self-employed applicants should be prepared to provide information about their self employment and earnings, including financial documents such as 2008 Federal tax forms.

DUA benefits are available to eligible individuals for up to 26 weeks from the date of the disaster declaration. The 26 week period for this disaster will end December 12, 2009.

The last day to apply for DUA is Aug. 8.

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