



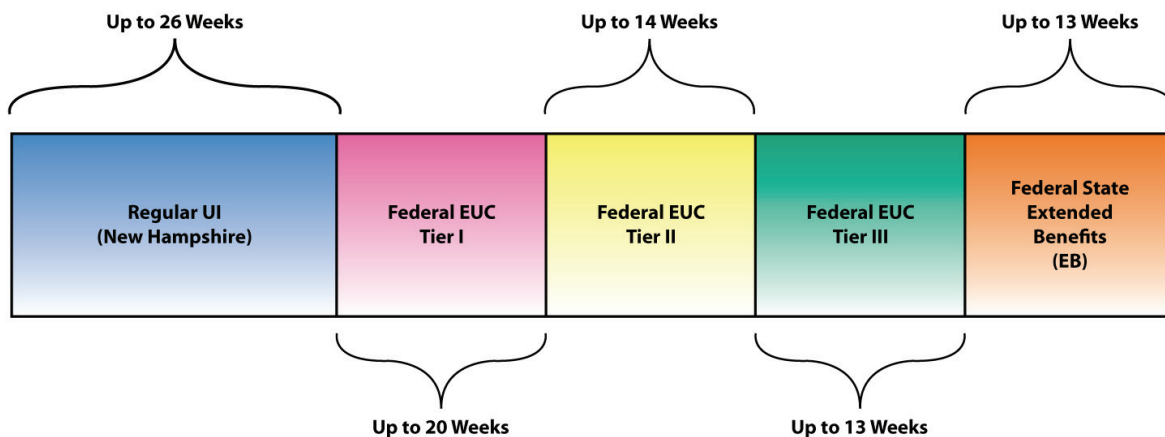
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **NOVEMBER 13, 2009**

## State of New Hampshire Receives Additional 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. 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 new law creates 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 increases 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.



- If an individual exhausts EUC First Tier (Tier I) on or before December 31, 2009, the individual may qualify for EUC – Second Tier (Tier II)
- If an individual exhausts EUC – Second Tier (Tier II) on or before December 31, 2009, the individual may qualify for EUC Third Tier (Tier III).
- Currently an individual may not move to a higher Tier if benefits for EUC are exhausted on or after December 31, 2009. However, an individual may be eligible for the Federal-State Extended Benefits (EB) program.

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. 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. NHES will be mailing letters to individuals who potentially qualify for this new extension because they either exhausted all of their benefits or will soon be doing so. 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.

As this is a new program that needs to be established and modifications need to be done to the current unemployment compensation system, all individuals that wish to file for the EUC – Tier III program will have to visit their nearest Employment Security office to complete the blue application form. The staff in the office will process the application and provide further instruction. NH Employment Security must determine if you are eligible for a regular unemployment claim in New Hampshire or under any other state or federal unemployment program prior to being eligible for any of the EUC – Tier III program EUC or EB benefit programs. If it is determined that regular unemployment insurance possibilities have been exhausted, then a claim for federal extension program can be established. The claim will go through the same verification and adjudication process as regular unemployment insurance claims and you will be given papers to file your continued claim forms. In addition, claimants must adhere to established unemployment laws and rules that include conducting the required job search and working with Employment Security staff to obtain new employment.

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

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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*Telephone (603) 224-3311 Fax (603) 228-4145 TDD/TTY Access: Relay 1-800-735-2964 Web site: [www.nh.gov/nhes](http://www.nh.gov/nhes).*