

CAN I WORK & EARN UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS IN CALIFORNIA?

Excerpt: A GUIDE TO BENEFITS AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
This booklet is issued by the California Employment Development Department.

You may be able to work part time and receive reduced UI benefits, even if your earnings are higher than your weekly benefit amount. You report your total earnings before deductions and EDD will figure the amount to deduct.

- If your weekly earnings are \$100 or less, EDD does not count the first \$25. The amount of earnings over \$25 is subtracted from your weekly benefit amount and you are paid the difference, if any.
- If your weekly earnings are \$101 or more, EDD does not count the first 25 percent of your earnings. The amount of earnings remaining is subtracted from your weekly benefit amount and you are paid the difference, if any.

Example: Weekly Benefit Amount = \$350 per week

Work for \$400 per week

25% of \$400 is not counted - \$100

Take remaining \$300 out of Benefit Amount - \$50 remains

Pay for the week is \$450. Plus you have paid taxes & exposed yourself to long term work.

Eligibility Requirements

An individual who files for unemployment insurance benefits **must** meet specific eligibility requirements before benefits can be paid. Individuals must:

- Have received enough wages during the base period to establish a claim
- Be totally or partially unemployed
- Be unemployed through no fault of his/her own
- Be physically able to work
- Be available for work which means to be ready and willing to immediately accept work
- Be actively looking for work
- Meet eligibility requirements each week benefits are claimed
- Be approved for training before training benefits can be paid

Why You Shouldn't Avoid Temping:

By accepting a temp position, you are able to push out your checks to receive later when you finish the assignment. It's not a "use it or lose it" type of system. In the state of California, you can receive compensation for up to 26 weeks, or one year, which ever comes first. So by working a temporary position, whether its six days or six months, all you have to do is just reinstate your existing claim when you become unemployed again and pick up where you left off.

Taxes! By working again, you're receiving taxed income. For any unemployment funds you collect, you are required by law to report that income and pay those taxes at the end of the year. In other words, the more time you find to work, the better off you'll be come tax season. Imagine being unemployed and collecting for the full 26 weeks, and then maybe getting an extension or two. Before you know it, you've gone almost a year without any taxed income and now you owe the government- and you still don't have a job! Not fun.

It's work! Without sounding redundant here, by accepting a job... you have a JOB! And in the staffing world, a temp job can often turn into a permanent position. For more information on this, check out [Temping: How it works and why you should](#).
