

CALIFORNIA TRAINING BENEFITS PROGRAM

The California Training Benefit (CTB) program allows eligible California Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants, who lack competitive job skills to compete for jobs in the California labor market, to receive their UI benefits, which might otherwise not be allowed while attending a training or retraining program. Under the CTB program, the traditional role of UI changes from that of partial wage replacement while the individual looks for work to one of assisting the individual in training or retraining in an effort to return to full employment.

Considering CTB Participation

Individuals who are approved by the EDD to participate in the CTB program do not have to meet the following eligibility requirements during the period of approved training:

- Look for work
- Be available for work
- Accept suitable work

There is an extension of UI benefits available only for eligible CTB participants, which is known as a Training Extension (TE) claim. A TE claim may be available when regular UI benefits run out before the period of approved training is completed and federal/federal-state extended benefits (extensions) are not available. However, there is no guarantee that regular UI benefits, a TE claim, or extensions will be sufficient to cover the entire period of approved training.

The California Unemployment Insurance Code (CUIC) provides the eligibility criteria for the CTB program and TE benefits which EDD staff must follow in order to approve CTB participation and allow the filing of TE claims. The EDD is prohibited from pre-determining CTB eligibility until the individual has started to attend school or training.

Base period employers are notified when an individual is approved for the CTB program, which provides the employers the right to contest the individual's need for training or retraining. When employers contest or appeal the CTB eligibility determination, it may result in a reversal of the original eligibility finding. If the original eligibility is reversed, the claimant has the right to appeal the disqualification.

CTB Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for CTB program participation, an individual must be eligible to receive California UI benefits, and notify the EDD as soon as the school or training attendance begins. Once the EDD has been notified, eligibility fact finding is conducted by EDD staff to gather information to determine if CTB can be approved.

There are two types of CTB program approval criteria the EDD uses to determine CTB eligibility.

Criteria 1

CTB participation may be approved assuming all other UI eligibility criteria are met and the EDD determines the training meets at least **one** of the following conditions:

- The training is authorized and verifiable by one of the following State or federal program sponsors:
 - Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
 - Employment Training Panel (ETP)
 - Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)
 - California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)
- The individual is an active journey level union member taking industry-related training approved by his/her union.
- The training program and provider are listed on California's Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL). The ETPL is online at <http://etpl.edd.ca.gov/wiaetplind.htm>.

Criteria 2

Individuals not approved under Criteria 1 may have their CTB participation approved only if he/she meet **all** other UI eligibility criteria and the EDD determines the training meets all of the following conditions:

- The individual **must** be eligible for California UI benefits and be unemployed or partially unemployed for four or more continuous weeks or is unemployed due to a plant closure, or substantial reduction in work force, or due to a mental or physical disability preventing the use of existing job skills, or due to technological changes in their occupation; **AND**

- The individual **must** be unemployed due to a lack of demand for his/her current skills in his/her local labor market, or his/her occupation is seasonal and he/she has no other skills in current demand; **AND**
- The training **must** relate to an occupation or skill which is in demand in your local labor market in California where you intend to seek work. When federal extension claims are in effect in California, certain prerequisite or remedial training is included; **AND**
- The training is taken at an approved training facility **AND** the training **must** be completed within a reasonable period of time, not exceeding 24 months (or not exceeding 48 months when federal extensions are in effect in California); **AND**
- The training **must** be full time, (typically not less than 20 hours per week, or 12 semester or quarter units) and intended to provide skills to obtain employment in a demand occupation; **AND**
- The individual **must** reasonably be expected to complete the training successfully, even if UI benefits are not sufficient to cover the entire period of training; **AND**
- The beginning date of the new training or retraining **must** be more than three years from the beginning date of the last CTB participation.

Training Extension (TE) Eligibility Criteria

Individuals are approved for a TE claim if they are eligible for CTB and inquired about CTB or have a CTB eligibility interview prior to receiving the 16th week of regular UI benefits. If the UI claim is less than 16 weeks, the inquiry or the eligibility interview must be made before the individual receives his or her last benefit payment.

Benefits Available

- Individuals participating in CTB who are otherwise eligible for UI benefits may receive their regular UI benefits during the period of CTB approved training. The amount of the claim award, not the length of training, determines how long UI benefits can be paid while participating in the CTB program.
- The TE claim provides additional benefits up to a combined maximum amount equal to 52 weeks times (x) the weekly benefit amount of the regular (parent) UI claim on which the CTB was approved. However, the maximum award of the parent UI claim and any subsequent new UI claim, and the payments on extensions, are subtracted from the maximum TE amount.

When extensions are available and an individual qualifies for these benefits, extended benefits may replace TE benefits.

- The TE benefits are payable until the training is completed, the maximum TE amount is paid, or the individual qualifies for a new claim or any extensions; whichever occurs first. However, TE payments are not payable during the summer months when individuals are not attending the approved training for three or more weeks.
- Individuals who qualify for a new claim or extension in California or any other state, must file the new claim or extension, and be paid from that claim or extension, even if the weekly benefit amount is lower. The requirement to be paid from the new or extension may not apply to TAA participants.

Tuition, Books, and Fees

The CTB program does not cover any educational or training-related expenses such as tuition, fees, books, supplies, or transportation. If you are unemployed, you may be eligible for federal financial aid, such as Pell Grants. For more information on federal financial aid, visit the Web site at www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov.

Approval Authority for CTB

CTB eligibility is based upon legislation contained in Article 1.5 of the California Unemployment Insurance Code, Sections 1269, 1269.1 and 1271, respectively. Information on how these laws are applied by EDD staff making CTB eligibility decision can be found in the Miscellaneous Benefit Determination Guide, Section 85, through this link: www.edd.ca.gov/UIBDG/Miscellaneous_MI_85.htm.

Finding Training

The CTB program does not provide assistance in assessing training needs or identifying potential sources for training. The Labor Market Information section of the EDD Web site provides career information and can help identify occupations with the greatest demand now and in the future. Visit the EDD Web site at www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov.

For More Information

For further information, to inquire about CTB, or to report that you have started training, please contact the EDD through the "Contact UI" link on the menu on the EDD Web site at www.edd.ca.gov or by telephone at:

English	1-800-300-5616
Spanish	1-800-326-8937
Cantonese.....	1-800-547-3506
Mandarin	1-866-303-0706
Vietnamese	1-800-547-2058
TTY (non-voice)	1-800-815-9387

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Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.