

March 7, 2011

**MEMORANDUM NO: 011-19 HR**

**TO: Agency Administrators**

**FROM: Bobbie Chappell**

**VIA: Rip Colvin, Executive Director**

**RE: Executive Order 10-276 - Extension of Eligibility Period for Unemployment  
Emergency Benefits**

On December 17, 2010, President Obama signed into law an extension of the eligibility dates for the Extended Benefits (EB) Program by approximately 13 months. With the signing of the extension, Governor Crist issued Executive Order 10-276 - Extension of Eligibility Period for Unemployment Emergency Benefits. The Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) anticipated beginning to pay benefits for the program following the week the order was signed.

Florida's EB period originally ended on December 4, 2010. Since Florida must be in an EB period for eligible Floridians to receive payments, Governor Charlie Crist signed the Executive Order authorizing Floridians who qualify to receive those benefits. Qualifying individuals will receive the benefits retroactive to December 4 if their benefits lapsed.

The EB Program pays up to 20 weeks of additional benefits to individuals who previously exhausted the up-to-79 weeks of regular state and Federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation Benefits. AWI estimates the Governor's Executive Order will result in an additional \$650 million in benefit payments for long-term unemployed Floridians. The new law provides an extension of full Federal funding for EB through January 7, 2012.

Please note that EB for former state and local employees do not include Federal funding, due to the fact that these entities are self-insured and the Federal law does not allow for their participation in Federal sharing. The temporary EB for these former employees must be paid by the governmental entity. The cost for the current extension is estimated to total \$18.4 million, approximately \$5.4 million from state funds and \$13 million from local government funds. In order to participate in Federal sharing, the temporary EB Program must encompass unemployed individuals of both the private and public sectors.

What this means for the circuits/agencies is that you will continue to see former employees, who claimed EB, on the Unemployment Compensation Quarterly Invoice for the foreseeable future.

If you have any questions please contact Andy Snuggs at [SnuggsA@justiceadmin.org](mailto:SnuggsA@justiceadmin.org).

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# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 10-276

(Extension of Eligibility Period for Unemployment Emergency Benefits)

**WHEREAS**, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008, Public Law 110-252, afforded Floridians who had exhausted their claims for regular state unemployment benefits an opportunity to qualify for federally funded emergency unemployment benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008, Public Law 110-449, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-118, the Temporary Extension Act of 2010, Public Law 111-144, and the Continuing Extension Act of 2010, Public Law 111-157, extended unemployment compensation benefits for qualified Floridians until June 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 1736, enacted during the 2010 Regular Session, provided unemployed Floridians access to federal extended benefits through June 5, 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2010, Public Law 11-205, further extended unemployed Floridians' access to federal extended benefits through December 4, 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 10-170, signed on July 23, 2010, authorized the Agency for Workforce Innovation (the "Agency") to take advantage of this additional funding and to pay extended benefits through December 4, 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 17, 2010, the federal government approved a further extension of unemployment compensation by passing the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 (the "Act"), which would retroactively extend emergency unemployment benefits and restore full federal funding to the extended benefits program; and

**WHEREAS**, there are over one million Floridians that are currently unemployed; and

**WHEREAS**, the extension of unemployment benefits could provide immediate relief to more than 70,000 struggling Floridians; and

**WHEREAS**, an additional 250,000 could become eligible between now and the end of the extension period created by the Act; and

**WHEREAS**, with unemployment currently at 12% in the State of Florida, availability of funds is critical to the state's economy, which is still recovering from a severe economic recession; and

**WHEREAS**, those Floridians who must depend on unemployment benefits to survive this historic economic downturn would be unable to benefit from the recent extension without adoption of the Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the foregoing circumstances will result in substantial injury to the thousands of Floridians who could immediately benefit from the relief approved in the Act; and

**WHEREAS**, it is vital to the welfare and economic security of Floridians who are currently eligible to receive extended benefits and in the best interests of the State of Florida that these benefits be paid in a timely manner; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interests of the residents of Florida that unemployed Floridians be permitted to benefit from all existing federal unemployment programs;

**NOW THEREFORE, I, CHARLIE CRIST**, Governor of Florida, in obedience to my constitutional duty to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed," and pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, issue this Executive Order effective immediately:

Section 1. The Agency is hereby authorized to accept and use the federal funds authorized by the Act for the payment of extended benefits and for the administration of any programs which make such payments.

Section 2. The provisions of this Executive Order will operate retroactive to December 4, 2010 and expire on January 7, 2012. The expiration dates set forth in section 443.1117(2)(g) and (h), Florida Statutes, shall be extended until the third week after the first week that the total unemployment rate fails to meet or exceed the levels described in section 203(f) of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Act of 1970, as amended by the Act, or until the week ending December 10, 2011, whichever occurs first, but in no event shall the Agency pay extended benefits for any week of unemployment ending after January 7, 2012.

Section 3. During the extended benefit period, the Agency shall pay extended benefits to all persons who meet the requirements of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Act of 1970 and section 2005 of the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, as amended by the Act.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2010.



*Charlie Crist*  
GOVERNOR

*Lawrence K. Roberts*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

2010 DEC 17 PM 4:55  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

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