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Washington extends unemployment safety net to help federal workers working full-
or part-time without pay

OLYMPIA – Governor Jay Inslee and Commissioner Suzi LeVine today announced an emergency rule allowing federal workers working without pay to receive unemployment benefits.

Workers can learn how to apply here: https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment-benefits-related-to-partial-federal-shutdown#NEW

The Employment Security Department has posted data about the estimated number of workers impacted by county, including estimates of lost wages by week.

The agency also has data from the National Association of State Workforce Agencies showing the estimated number of employees by affected federal agency in Washington.

Washington's unemployment-insurance program is an experience-based system. In general, tax rates depend on how much former workers collect in unemployment benefits and the size of their payroll.

Like other government agencies and some non-profits, the federal government is considered a “reimbursable” employer, meaning they don’t have an experience rating like other employers.

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