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Unemployment benefits extended for qualified South Dakota workers

PIERRE, S.D. - Governor Mike Rounds has announced unemployment benefits for qualified South Dakota workers will be extended for up to 13 additional weeks. These benefits are effective July 6, 2008, as a result of a new, federally funded program.

The South Dakota Department of Labor (SDDOL) estimates 1,300 workers have exhausted their regular benefit entitlement and may be eligible for the additional benefits. Applicants who started regular state unemployment claims any time since May 8, 2006, and who are now unemployed and not receiving regular benefits may be eligible for the extra payments.

Qualifications for the additional benefits are dependant on current employment status and other eligibility requirements. Payments on extended claims will be paid at the same weekly rate the worker received on their regular claim. The maximum weekly payment is \$285.

Individuals who may be eligible for the additional benefits will be notified directly by the SDDOL. Claimants may also contact the Unemployment Insurance Call Center at 605.626.3179.