

Don't Let Hurricane Evacuees Lose Unemployment Insurance

Unless Congress acts this week, about 80,000 Katrina and Rita evacuees will lose their unemployment benefits in June. Of these, more than 26,000 are currently living in Texas. For those unemployed by Katrina, the cut-off date is June 3; the Rita deadline is June 24.

Unemployment benefits are especially critical now when other forms of federal disaster assistance are being terminated. The unemployment rate for hurricane evacuees is approximately 15%--about three times the state and national average. In many areas of Texas, the evacuee unemployment rate is much higher.

We urge you to contact your Senator and Congressional Representative to pass H.R. 5392, a measure to extend Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) for an additional 13 weeks. Click here to find contact information:
<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/state/main/?state=TX&lvl=L&view=myofficials>.

For more information, see:
http://www.nelp.org/ui/initiatives/hurricane_katrina_jobless/index.cfm