

Guide to accessing unemployment benefits

What is unemployment benefit?

Unemployment benefit is a monthly financial aid granted to individuals who have lost their job and meet certain legal conditions. Its purpose is to temporarily support people who are seeking new employment, while also providing access to professional support services.

The minimum value of the benefit is 660 lei/month, but the amount can increase based on:

- Your previous gross salary
- The number of years you've worked and contributed to the unemployment system

The benefit is granted for a period of 6 to 12 months, depending on your work history.

Eligibility criteria

To qualify for this financial support, you must meet all the following conditions:

1. Your residence must be fully registered on your temporary protection permit. Without this, your application cannot be accepted.
2. You must have contributed for at least 12 months within the last 24 months:
 - Either through a legal employment contract
 - Or through independent activities (e.g. PFA – Authorized Natural Person) for which you paid contributions to the unemployment insurance system

Situations in which you are NOT eligible

Even if unemployment contributions were deducted from your salary, you are not entitled to the benefit if:

- You resigned voluntarily
- Your employment contract ended by mutual agreement

In such cases, you can still apply for other types of support: social services, job integration assistance, or social aid, through local authorities or ANOFM.

Exception for graduates

Individuals who have graduated from a form of education, are at least 16 years old, and are registered as job seekers, can receive unemployment benefits even if they haven't worked or contributed for 12 months.

Benefits while receiving unemployment aid

While receiving the unemployment benefit, you are insured in the public healthcare system, under the same conditions as employees or individuals who pay health contributions from their own income.

How to apply for unemployment benefit

Unemployment benefit is not granted automatically when your employment ends. You must submit an official request to the County Agency for Employment (AJOFM), depending on the area where you reside (as stated on your temporary protection permit).

IMPORTANT: You must apply within 12 months from the end date of your last job.

Required documents

To receive the benefit, prepare the following documents:

- Application form (downloadable from the ANOFM website)
- Identity document / Temporary protection permit
- Declaration on your own responsibility that you have no medical restrictions preventing employment
- Employment history certificates from former employers
- Documents confirming the end of your employment (e.g. termination decision, final clearance certificate)
- Any other documents requested by the AJOFM officer

Your responsibilities while receiving unemployment benefit

While receiving the aid, you have certain legal obligations. Failure to comply may lead to suspension or repayment of the benefit:

1. **Monthly attendance** at AJOFM for counseling and updating your personal situation
2. **Acceptance of professional support**, such as:
 - Requalification courses
 - Interview mediation
3. Inform AJOFM **within 3 working days** about any of the following:
 - Starting a new income-generating activity (employment or freelance work)
 - Earning legal income above 660 lei/month
 - Leaving Romania
 - Taking maternity or parental leave
 - Retirement in Romania
 - Enrolling in an educational program in Romania

Note: If you do not report these changes, you may be required to fully repay the benefits you received during the time you were no longer eligible.

Additional support

If you are not eligible for unemployment benefits, you may still access:

- **Job integration services** offered by ANOFM
- **Social assistance or other support** via your local city hall
- **Multilingual informational guides** (Romanian, Ukrainian, Russian, English) on the ANOFM website: www.anofm.ro