



*A Union of Professionals*

## **Adjuncts: You may qualify for unemployment compensation**

### **As an adjunct, am I eligible for unemployment compensation if I am not teaching during the current term?**

Beginning in January 2017, it's more likely than ever that the answer is yes.

Eligibility depends on 1) whether you have "reasonable assurance" of an "offer for employment" in the upcoming term, and 2) what the elements of that offer are.

Basically, if you have no contract and/or there are contingencies that throw doubt on whether you will have a job next term, you could qualify for unemployment compensation. There are details that help the state determine your eligibility; to find out more, and to find out if you qualify, go to the new FAQ sheet ([http://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/qa\\_adjuncts\\_unemployment.pdf](http://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/qa_adjuncts_unemployment.pdf)).

### **Is this eligibility new?**

Yes. On Dec. 22, 2016, the U.S. Department of Labor updated federal guidance to better reflect the realities of today's predominantly adjunct academic workforce.

### **Does this mean that if I was denied unemployment compensation before, I might be approved now?**

Yes! In the past, states were inconsistent about whether adjuncts qualified for unemployment because their definition of "reasonable assurance" of a job in an upcoming term was inconsistent.

Two states—California and Washington—regularly granted unemployment benefits to adjuncts based on state court rulings and state legislation, and those standards remain intact. But if you don't live in California or Washington, you may have seen unemployment benefits frequently denied. Even if you've been denied in the past, you should revisit your eligibility with your state agency. Chances are you could be approved.

For more information and to find out whether you qualify for unemployment compensation, see the new FAQ sheet ([http://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/qa\\_adjuncts\\_unemployment.pdf](http://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/qa_adjuncts_unemployment.pdf)).

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The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of 1.6 million professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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