



# FARMWORKER & LANDSCAPER ADVOCACY PROJECT

*ABOGADOS PARA CAMPESINOS Y  
JARDINEROS*

## ***Unemployment***

*Advocating and Litigating on Behalf  
of Landscapers and Farmworkers  
since 1999.*

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100 W Monroe Suite 1800  
Chicago, IL, 60603  
[847-668-2114](tel:847-668-2114) (cell)  
[312-347-7604](tel:312-347-7604) (fax)  
[asossa@fwadvocacy.org](mailto:asossa@fwadvocacy.org)

**If my employer fires me, can I receive any assistance from the government?**

*Yes, you may qualify for unemployment.*

**What is “unemployment”?**

*It is an employment insurance plan offered by the state.*

**What are unemployment payments?**

*They are checks that an employee receives every 2 weeks while he/she is looking for new employment.*

**Who pays for unemployment?**

*Your employer pays the state a minimum amount. It does not cost the employee anything.*

**How long do the payments last?**

*A maximum of 6 months.*

**Can agricultural workers receive unemployment benefits?**

*Yes. Almost all qualify.*

**Do all of the farms have to participate in the unemployment program?**

*No. Small farms sometimes participate. Ask your employer if he/she offers unemployment insurance.*

*The process to qualify for unemployment payments is very complicated, but you have to have earned more than \$1,600 in the year in which you were fired.*

**Do I need permission to work in the United States to qualify?**

*Yes, you do.*

**Do I qualify if I quit my job?**

*No. You must be fired in order to qualify for unemployment. If you resign, you do not qualify. If you are fired for poor behavior, you do not qualify.*

**How much will the payments be?**

*The quantity will depend on how much you earned every week in the year prior to being fired.*

**Do I need to be looking for work while I receive unemployment payments?**

*Yes. Also, every 2 weeks, you need to tell the Unemployment Office all of the places you have gone to look for work.*

**To apply for unemployment payments, what do I need to do?**

*Visit the unemployment office closest to you and fill out an application.*

**What information should I bring when I go to apply for unemployment payments?**

*Any proof you have of your wages and the time that you worked, plus your social security number and information about your family.*

**Can I apply for unemployment payments when I return to the town where I live?**

*Yes. You can apply for unemployment payments in any state in the United States.*

**If my application is denied, do I have a remedy?**

*Yes. Your remedy is to make an appeal with the Unemployment Office.*

**If my appeal with the Unemployment Office is denied, do I have a remedy?**

*Yes. You may ask for a hearing with an administrative judge.*

**Who can help me if I am denied payments?**

*Any legal services office. If you work in the fields or in a nursery, you can call the Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project at (847) 668-2114.*

*Last Updated 2012*