

Answer Key: Why It's So Hard to Get Unemployment Benefits in Florida

Directions: Watch the video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=ualUPur6iks&feature=youtu.be
Answer the questions below.

1. Describe how well Florida's Unemployment Insurance system works compared to the other state systems mentioned in the video.

(The unemployed in many states were quickly able to access benefits at the outset of the pandemic compared to only 10% in Florida.)

2. How is unemployment relief typically funded?

(Unemployment benefits are typically funded through taxes on businesses.)

3. What three changes were applied in Florida to reduce the large expense of Unemployment Insurance on the state?

(Cutting taxes on businesses, cutting weekly payments to workers, reducing the number of weeks an unemployed person could collect benefits, moved the entire application process online to a website that frequently crashed, and made the application process extremely complicated.)

4. Why is it unreasonable to blame the website developer for the obstacles deterring the unemployed?

(The same website developer produced a very successful website in Massachusetts using the same framework.)