

# New York's Unemployment Insurance System, Compared to Other States

## New York's UI System At-a-Glance, May 2009 National Employment Law Project

- The current unemployment rate in New York is **7.8 percent**. Nearly 766,000 New Yorkers are jobless – the highest number of unemployed since 1992.
- For this reason, New York's UI program is more important than ever. UI benefits not only help working families meet basic needs, but also stimulate local economies - the Department of Labor estimates that every dollar of UI benefits brings about **\$2.15** in economic growth.
- However, out-of-date funding mechanisms are challenging New York's ability to provide sufficient benefits for many jobless families throughout the state. New York distributes UI benefits to a smaller share of its unemployed workforce than any of its neighboring states.
- New York's weekly maximum benefit levels are also inadequately low – even lower than in states such as Kansas and Arkansas, where the cost of living is significantly less.

