

<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR</b> <b>Employment and Training Administration</b> <b>Washington, D. C. 20210</b>	<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>
	UI/Child Care
	<b>CORRESPONDENCE SYMBOL</b>
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None	September 30, 1989

**DIRECTIVE : UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM LETTER NO. 60-88**

**TO : ALL STATE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY AGENCIES**

**FROM : DONALD J. KULICK**  
**Administrator**  
**for Regional Management**

**SUBJECT : Child Care needs of Claimants**

1. **Purpose.** To provide information and to encourage action to assure that child care needs are considered when providing information and assistance to parents filing claims for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits.
2. **Background.** The Secretary of Labor has stated that child care is a National concern and a workforce issue that affects the productivity of our industry and the supply of our labor.

The greatest number of parents likely to need child care are working people. Of the 64 million families in the United States, 26 million have children under the age of 14. This points out the need for increased attention to the child care needs of parents desiring to participate in the workforce.

The availability of adequate child care may be a significant determinant of an individual's availability for employment. Often a parent is faced with the alternative of seeking employment (coupled with adequate child care) or of not participating in the workforce while personally providing care for dependent children.

Some workers who lose their jobs are also faced with the loss of child care support provided by their previous employer or paid from previous earnings. The lack of the availability of alternative child care facilities -- or the lack of a knowledge of available care -- may render some otherwise eligible claimants for UI benefits not available for employment and consequently, not eligible for UI benefits.

For a State Employment Security Agency (SESA) to provide information on available child care to a claimant is as basic as providing information on the availability of public transit services. We understand that some SESAs have voluntarily undertaken the task of providing child care information to claimants.

3. **Child Care Initiatives.** SESAs are encouraged to develop and explore means of addressing child care informational needs of claimants for unemployment insurance benefits.

It is suggested that the role of the SESA in this activity should be carefully prescribed and limited to the provision of written information on the availability of child care facilities only. Such information should include a clearly stated disclaimer of SESA liability or responsibility for accuracy of data provided and for quality and safety of care provided by the child care facilities. The disclaimer should be developed by the SESA in consultation with appropriate State legal authorities in order to avoid potential liability judgements.

Since many child care facilities and providers are in the private-for-profit sector, the SESA should avoid being placed in the position of recommending, endorsing or approving any individual facility. SESAs are encouraged to use listings that already exist in the files and records of other State and local agencies charged with child care, licensing, land use planning and zoning responsibilities. Many State agencies charged with the administration of programs under Title IV of the Social Security Act, particularly AFDC programs, provide among their services the maintenance of a listing of child care institutions and providers licensed by the State. Most counties and municipalities have licensing or certification standards for institutional and home child care providers.

SESAs are encouraged to work with local community child care committees, agencies and groups to address the need for more and better child care facilities for employed and unemployed parents in the workforce.

4. **Action Required.** SESAs are requested to encourage local office staff to provide appropriate information and assistance to claimants who are parents with child care responsibilities.
5. **Inquiries.** Address all inquiries to the appropriate ETA Regional Office.