

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY SYSTEM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Washington, D.C. 20210	CLASSIFICATION Unemployment Insurance
	CORRESPONDENCE SYMBOL OUI
	DATE January 15, 2025

**ADVISORY: UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM LETTER NO. 20-21,
Change 2**

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES

FROM: JOSÉ JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ /s/
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Announcing the End of Period for States to Request Additional Blanket Overpayment Waiver Scenarios under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, as Amended

1. **Purpose.** To inform states that applications for additional scenarios for blanket waivers of recoveries of established overpayments under Unemployment Insurance Program Letter (UIPL) No. 20-21, Change 1, will no longer be accepted as of the publication date of this UIPL.
2. **Action Requested.** The U.S. Department of Labor’s (Department) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) requests State Workforce Administrators provide the information contained in this Unemployment Insurance Program Letter (UIPL) to the appropriate staff.
3. **Summary and Background.**
 - a. Summary – Upon publication of this UIPL, ETA will no longer accept applications seeking approval of additional scenarios for use of blanket waivers of recoveries of established overpayments, as described in UIPL No. 20-20, Change 1.
 - b. Background – On May 5, 2021, ETA issued UIPL No. 20-21 which described the requirements for establishing benefit overpayments for programs authorized by the CARES Act, as amended. The UIPL also described, among other administrative guidance, the statutory criteria for waiving recovery of an overpayment and provided two limited scenarios when a state may process “blanket waivers” as an administrative tool to process waivers in accordance with the statutory criteria. Attachment I to UIPL No. 20-21 provided a quick reference to summarize the guidelines regarding the establishment and recovery of overpayments across UC programs.

On February 7, 2022, ETA issued UIPL No. 20-21, Change 1, to provide additional instructions for circumstances under which states may waive recovery of overpayments under the CARES Act UC programs. This guidance identified a total of seven scenarios

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as permissible scenarios for states to apply and use blanket waivers, two of which were previously approved under UIPL No. 20-21, and provided a process by which states could request that additional scenarios be considered for approval, in accordance with the statutory requirements to waive recovery.

4. **Guidance.** In light of the expiration of the programs authorized under the CARES Act in September 2021, and the winding down of state's administration of these programs over the course of the subsequent three years, we have had very few recent requests for additional blanket waiver scenarios. Therefore, ETA is ending the application process for requesting additional scenarios of blanket waivers effective upon publication of this UIPL.

This means that no new applications for additional blanket waiver scenarios will be accepted, assessed, or considered as of the publication date of this UIPL. States may continue to utilize blanket waivers under the seven existing scenarios outlined in UIPL Nos. 20-21 and 20-21, Change 1. ETA may continue to approve requests for additional blanket waiver scenarios submitted in accordance with UIPL No. 20-21, Change 1, that were received before the publication date of this UIPL.

5. **Inquiries.** Questions should be directed to the appropriate ETA Regional Office.

6. **References.**

- American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), including Title IX, Subtitle A, Crisis Support for Unemployed Workers (Pub. L. 117-2);
- Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, including Division N, Title II, Subtitle A, the Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act of 2020 (Continued Assistance Act) (Pub. L. 116-260);
- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, including Title II, Subtitle A, Relief for Workers Affected by Coronavirus Act (Pub. L. 116-136);
- Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011 (TAAEA) (Pub. L. 112-40);
- Section 303 of the Social Security Act (SSA) (42 U.S.C. §503);
- 20 C.F.R. Part 625;
- UIPL No. 20-21, *State Instructions for Assessing Fraud Penalties and Processing Overpayment Waivers under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, as Amended*, issued May 5, 2021, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/unemployment-insurance-program-letter-no-20-21>; and
- UIPL No. 20-21, Change 1, *Additional State Instructions for Processing Waivers of Recovery of Overpayments under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, as Amended*, issued February 7, 2022, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/unemployment-insurance-program-letter-no-20-21-change-1>.

7. **Attachment(s).** N/A.