EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY SYSTEM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Washington, D.C. 20210
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Unemployment Insurance
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ADVISORY: UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM LETTER NO. 13-24

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES

FROM: JOSÉ JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ

Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Guidelines for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 State Agency Unemployment Insurance

(UI) Resource Allocations, Supplemental Budget Requests (SBRs), and

Above-Base Funding

1. <u>Purpose</u>. To provide information to states about FY 2024 UI State Administration base resource allocations, general guidelines for resource planning, above-base funding, and SBRs.

- **2.** <u>Action Requested.</u> State Administrators are requested to provide copies of this Unemployment Insurance Program Letter (UIPL) to the appropriate staff.
- **3.** Summary and Background. The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (H.R. 2882, P.L. 118-364), which was enacted on March 23, 2024, provides the U.S Department of Labor (Department) with FY 2024 appropriations for state UI operations. The table below summarizes the average weekly insured unemployment (AWIU) levels and dollar amounts corresponding to the FY 2024 President's Budget request and the FY 2024 appropriation.

Summary of FY 2024 UI Budget Authority

	Budget Request	Appropriation	Difference
AWIU Contingency Trigger	2,365,000	3,075,000	710,000
State Administration	\$2,956,318,000	\$2,759,635,000	-\$196,683,000
RESEA / Integrity	\$550,000,000	\$382,000,000	-\$168,000,000
National Activities	\$173,255,000	\$18,000,000	-\$155,255,000
Total	\$3,679,573,000	\$3,159,635,000	-\$519,938,000

The appropriation provides that these funds are available for obligation by the states through, with exceptions as follows, December 31, 2024. The appropriation extends states' obligation availability for funds used for automation or competitive grants awarded to states for improved operations and Reemployment Services and Eligibility Act (RESEA) grants through September 30, 2026. If the automation is being carried out through a consortium of states, the funds are available for obligation by the states through September 30, 2030, and must be expended by September 30, 2031. Funding for the Unemployment Insurance

RESCISSIONS	EXPIRATION DATE
None	December 31, 2031

Integrity Center of Excellence is available for obligation by the state through September 30, 2025.

4. Details.

<u>Final Base Administration Allocations</u>. The final FY 2024 base allocations are identical to the planning targets developed at a 1,800,000 AWIU level, as published in UIPL No. 13-23. The attached table shows the total full FY 2024 base allocations for each state.

Above-Base Administration.

- a. Above-Base and Contingency Funding. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) estimates the FY 2024 appropriation will be insufficient to provide for full funding of states' above-base administrative earnings. ETA provided above base funding at \$0.50 per \$1.00 earned for the first quarter of FY 2024 and plans to continue to provide above-base funding at this rate for the remaining three quarters. Additional funding, if available, will be included along with the FY 2024 fourth quarter above-base distributions. In addition, the AWIU contingency trigger, which is set to 3,075,000, is far higher than the Department's latest estimated AWIU for FY 2024 set at 2,042,000 based on the economic assumptions used to develop the FY 2025 President's Budget. As a result, no additional contingency funding is likely to be available in FY 2024.
- b. <u>Administrative Funding for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES)</u>
 <u>Act Programs</u>. Funding for ongoing administrative costs for certain CARES Act programs will be addressed through forthcoming guidance which will be issued though a separate UIPL.
- c. <u>Support</u>. The overhead for above-base state UI, Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA), Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA), and Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA) administration remains at 19 percent.
- d. <u>Postage</u>. Since FY 2007, ETA has, as possible, provided above-base funding for postage directly to state workforce agencies based on the number of weeks claimed workloads not included in the base allocations. In recent years, unprecedented volatility in workload volumes and insufficient funding levels has forced ETA to withhold postage funding on above-base workloads. Based on the current state of above-base administrative funding, ETA will once again withhold postage from states' above-base distributions. If additional funding is available at the end of the year, ETA will first prioritize making up partial payments for above-base earnings before providing any above base postage funding.
- e. <u>Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA) Redeterminations</u>. Currently, there are no court decisions on the TRA program that would require the states to make monetary redeterminations. If one occurs, states must follow the UI-3 reporting instructions in Employment and Training (ET) Handbook No. 336, 18th Edition, Change 4.

Supplemental Budget Requests (SBRs). Instructions for SBRs are provided mostly through UIPLs. The State Quality Service Plan Handbook also contains SBR instructions and procedures for SBRs. Pending funding availability, states may submit a Standard Form (SF) 424 (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Approval No. 4040-0004) and SF 424A (OMB Approval No. 0348-0444) for additional funds for certain types of administrative costs (listed below) that are not funded within the states' base and above-base grants.

- a. <u>Special Projects</u>. FY 2024 funding for Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments (RESEAs) will be provided to states to administer these activities in accordance with UIPL No. 08-24 and each state's approved FY 2024 RESEA state plan.
- b. <u>Submission Requirements</u>. To achieve greater efficiency and as part of ETA's ongoing effort to streamline the grant award process, SBR submissions must be made using an electronically signed copy of the SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance), and the SF-424A (Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs), through Grants.gov (https://www.grants.gov/forms). Additional information on use of Grants.gov for SBR submission will be included in any guidance announcing SBR opportunities.
- c. <u>Travel</u>. Travel dollars are available for Benefit Accuracy Measurement Peer Reviews, National Review of States' UI Appeals Quarterly Self-Evaluations, and Tax Performance System reviews. States should provide travel estimates and reimbursement requests to the appropriate Regional Office, rather than submitting a SF 424, for these travel dollars.

<u>Nationally Funded Activities</u>. As provided in the State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations appropriation, the Department will make payments, on behalf of the states, to the entities operating the National Directory of New Hires and the State Information Data Exchange System for use by the states.

State Flexibility. All state UI administrative grant funds must be used in accordance with applicable Federal law, including Section 303(a)(8) of the Social Security Act (SSA) and the cost principles contained in 2 C.F.R. Part 200 and 2 C.F.R. Part 2900. States have flexibility to expend grant funds as they deem appropriate and necessary to manage and operate their UI programs to meet established goals and requirements within the parameters of Federal law. The only limitation is that states must use the annual allocated staff-year level for claims activities for above-base reporting purposes. This ensures that states do not earn more above-base resources than they otherwise would have been entitled to earn. This flexibility does not pertain to funding issued for special projects or SBRs; funding for these purposes must be spent in accordance with the spending plans approved for these respective projects.

5. <u>Inquiries.</u> Questions are to be submitted to the appropriate ETA Regional Office.

6. References.

- Section 303(a)(8) of the Social Security Act, (42 U.S.C. Section 503(a)(8));
- Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, Public Law (Pub. L.) 118-47;

- 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, Final Rule;
- 2 C.F.R Part 2900, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (U.S. Department of Labor);
- OMB Report to the Congress on the BBEDCA 251A Sequestration for Fiscal Year 2024 (March 13, 2024);
- Unemployment Insurance Program Letter (UIPL) No. 08-24, Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Funding Allotments and Operating Guidance for Unemployment Insurance (UI) Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments (RESEA) Grants, issued February 21, 2024 and UIPL No. 08-24 Change 1, Corrected Attachment to (UIPL) No. 08-24, issued March 22, 2024;
- UIPL No. 13-23, Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 State Workforce Agency Unemployment Insurance (UI) Resource Planning Targets and Guidelines, issued September 13, 2023;
- UIPL No. 07-24, Implementation of Sequestration under the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA) for Mandatory Unemployment Insurance Programs for Fiscal Year 2024, issued January 25, 2024;
- UIPL No. 09-23, Additional Planning Guidance for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Unemployment Insurance (UI) State Quality Service Plan (SQSP), issued June 30, 2023; and
- ETA Handbook No. 336, 18th Edition (March 2019), *Unemployment Insurance State Quality Service Plan (SQSP)*, *Planning and Reporting Guidelines*.

7. Attachment.

• Attachment I: State UI Base Administrative Grants – FY 2024.

	Administration	Postage	Total Base
National Totals	2,499,052,000	116,288,000	2,615,340,000
Alabama	25,753,603	627,153	26,380,756
Alaska	24,040,902	371,761	24,412,663
Arizona	36,174,778	1,330,188	37,504,966
Arkansas	17,407,052	674,670	18,081,722
California	338,846,600	24,709,524	363,556,124
Colorado	37,934,743	1,983,616	39,918,359
Connecticut	45,315,162	1,823,180	47,138,342
Delaware	8,752,014	314,480	9,066,494
District of Columbia	9,090,933	460,878	9,551,811
Florida	79,527,483	4,128,410	83,655,893
Georgia	52,239,949	3,016,779	55,256,728
Hawaii	14,443,198	531,908	14,975,106
Idaho	14,565,136	482,883	15,048,019
Illinois	148,149,071	5,459,208	153,608,279
Indiana	41,242,515	1,580,618	42,823,133
Iowa	27,211,308	897,155	28,108,463
Kansas	20,136,738	657,338	20,794,076
Kentucky	29,069,842	900,083	29,969,925
Louisiana	24,947,955	987,256	25,935,211
Maine	14,020,319	434,071	14,454,390
Maryland	55,987,715	1,460,824	57,448,539
Massachusetts	55,487,356	3,649,718	59,137,074
Michigan	131,360,842	3,097,664	134,458,506
Minnesota	41,988,541	2,841,839	44,830,380
Mississippi	20,308,026	461,115	20,769,141
Missouri	39,049,850	1,444,209	40,494,059
Montana	7,890,090	415,840	8,305,930
Nebraska	14,198,130	401,334	14,599,464
Nevada	23,350,214	1,147,856	24,498,070
New Hampshire	10,917,468	276,192	11,193,660
New Jersey	117,938,648	7,206,070	125,144,718
New Mexico	13,813,698	767,212	14,580,910
New York	163,746,137	9,561,266	173,307,403
North Carolina	51,179,878	1,823,154	53,003,032
North Dakota	7,374,431	236,776	7,611,207
Ohio	73,682,288	2,743,185	76,425,473
Oklahoma	21,462,471	961,912	22,424,383
Oregon	46,151,568	1,792,183	47,943,751
Pennsylvania	119,640,584	5,006,113	124,646,697
Puerto Rico	12,023,986	967,121	12,991,107
Rhode Island	13,143,645	556,568	13,700,213
South Carolina	27,026,897	1,027,042	28,053,939

Attachment I

South Dakota	4,720,927	177,459	4,898,386
Tennessee	33,927,687	1,156,321	35,084,008
Texas	142,532,348	7,377,460	149,909,808
Utah	22,144,698	718,069	22,862,767
Vermont	8,014,600	230,841	8,245,441
Virgin Islands	1,640,345	43,710	1,684,055
Virginia	40,105,445	1,762,714	41,868,159
Washington	87,698,620	3,008,790	90,707,410
West Virginia	10,649,664	497,852	11,147,516
Wisconsin	63,189,134	1,914,001	65,103,135
Wyoming	7,836,768	184,431	8,021,199