

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO . 24-22
	DATE April 17, 2023

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES

FROM: BRENT PARTON /s/
Acting Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: New Unemployment Insurance (UI) Tiger Team Promising Recommendations
Resource Pages Available on WorkforceGPS

1. **Purpose.** To announce the release of new content published on WorkforceGPS under the UI Community of Practice (COP). This content is related to Tiger Team engagements and resulting recommendation trends to support the goals of Section 9032 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): (1) preventing and detecting fraud; (2) promoting equitable access; and (3) ensuring the timely payment of benefits, including activities to reduce workload backlogs, for all UC programs.
2. **Action Requested.** The U.S. Department of Labor's (Department) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) requests that State Workforce Agency (SWA) Administrators provide information contained in this Training and Employment Notification (TEN) to all appropriate staff, including Information Technology personnel, and ensure these staff have access to the WorkforceGPS UI COP webpage <https://www.workforcegps.org> by creating an account or logging in to view content.
3. **Summary and Background.**
 - a. Summary – This notice announces the availability of new resource pages on the WorkforceGPS UI COP website which include many promising recommendations discovered through Tiger Team engagements in the areas of equitable access, fraud prevention and detection, and ensuring timely payment of benefits. States are encouraged to explore the content on the website, identify practices that may be incorporated into their existing operations and contact ETA for additional technical assistance.
 - b. Background – On March 11, 2021, the President signed ARPA into law (Public Law (Pub. L.) 117-2). Section 9032, ARPA, creates a new Section 2118 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (Pub. L. 116-136) and provides for a \$2,000,000,000 appropriation to the Secretary of Labor (Secretary) to: (1) detect and prevent fraud, (2) promote equitable access, and (3) ensure timely payment of benefits to eligible workers with respect to UC programs. Such funds may be used for federal administrative costs; system-wide infrastructure investment and development; and to make grants to states or territories administering UC programs for such purposes, including the establishment of procedures or the building of infrastructure to verify or validate identity, implement federal guidance regarding fraud detection and prevention,

and accelerate claims processing or process claims backlogs due to the pandemic. States are encouraged to visit the UI Modernization webpage at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/ui-modernization> for more information.

On November 2, 2021, the Department issued Unemployment Insurance Program Letter (UIPL) No. 02-22, to notify states of the availability of up to \$200 million in grant funding to support states with improving UC systems and processes that achieve the three goals of Section 9032, ARPA. States must first engage with the Department to complete a consultative assessment of their UC program. During this assessment the Department leverage a multi-disciplinary team of experts (*i.e.*, Tiger Teams) designed specifically to analyze state UC systems and process challenges. The Tiger Teams work with states to identify areas to enhance their existing efforts towards achieving these three goals and make actionable recommendations for the states to implement using available grant funding. The Department also provides project implementation support if states are interested in using these resources and services. Additional detail on project implementation support is provided in UIPL No. 03-23. States interested in participating should contact their ETA Regional Office by the March 31, 2023 deadline provided in UIPL No. 02-22, Change 2. Additional details on Tiger Teams and how to participate are provided in UIPL No. 02-22 and UIPL No. 02-22, Change 2.

Established in 2011, the UI COP provides a means for ETA and states to communicate important information and share promising practices and program improvements. The UI COP is a private community available exclusively to state and federal UI practitioners. TEN No. 18-11.

4. Promising Recommendations from the Tiger Teams on WorkforceGPS

- a. **Promising Recommendations** – To date, through the Tiger Team engagements, ETA has made relevant and impactful recommendations to 28 states. These recommendations reflect solutions to the existing challenges and pain points observed within participating states. ETA gathered the reoccurring recommendations and identified promising practices that can benefit all states. ETA will share this information via the UI COP on ETA’s knowledge-sharing site, WorkforceGPS (<https://www.workforcegps.org>). These pages can be accessed directly at: https://www.workforcegps.org/resources/2023/04/UI_Content/Public_ARPA_External.
- b. **Stay in the Know** – To automatically receive updates when new information and more promising recommendations are posted, ensure staff are registered for UI COP by having them visit the website at: <https://www.workforcegps.org/login?returnUrl=https://www.workforcegps.org/user/myprofile/my-communities>.

5. Inquiries. Please direct inquiries to the appropriate ETA Regional Office.

6. **References.**

- American Rescue Plan Act, Pub L. 117-2, enacted March 11, 2021;
- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (Pub. L. 116-136), including Title II Subtitle A, Relief for Workers Affected by Coronavirus Act, enacted March 27, 2020;
- UIPL No. 03-23, *Availability of U.S. Department of Labor (Department) Funded Resources and Services to State American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grantees*, issued March 6, 2023, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/uipl-03-23>;
- UIPL No. 02-22, *Grant Opportunity to Support States Following a Consultative Assessment for Fraud Detection and Prevention, Promoting Equitable Access, and Ensuring the Timely Payment of Benefits, including Backlog Reduction, for all Unemployment Compensation (UC) Programs*, issued November 2, 2021, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/unemployment-insurance-program-letter-no-02-22>;
- UIPL No. 02-22, Change 1, *Extension of Time for States to Express Interest in the Grant Opportunity Announced in Unemployment Insurance Letter (UIPL) No. 2-22 to Support States Following a Consultative Assessment for Fraud Detection and Prevention, Promoting Equitable Access, and Ensuring the Timely Payment of Benefits, including Backlog Reduction, for all Unemployment Compensation (UC) Programs*, issued February 16, 2022, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/unemployment-insurance-program-letter-no-02-22-change-1>;
- UIPL No. 02-22, Change 2, *Extension of Time for States to Express in the Grant Opportunity Announced in Unemployment Insurance Program Letter (UIPL) No. 02-22, to Support States Following a Consultative Assessment for Fraud Detection and Prevention, Promoting Equitable Access, and Ensuring the Timely Payment of Benefits, including Backlog Reduction, for all Unemployment Compensation (UC) Programs*, issued September 19, 2022, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/uipl-02-22-change-2>;
- TEN No. 18-11, *Unemployment Insurance (UI) Community of Practice (COP)*, issued November 30, 2011, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/training-and-employment-notice-no-18-11>; and
- UI Modernization webpage, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/ui-modernization>.

7. **Attachment(s).** Not Applicable.