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| TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE | NO. 11-25 |
| | DATE June 18, 2026 |

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES

FROM: HENRY MACK, ED.D. /s/
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: National Training Conference for Unemployment Insurance Appellate Professionals

1. **Purpose.** To announce the availability of funding for travel costs associated with state Unemployment Insurance (UI) appellate staff attending the 2026 UI Appellate Professionals Training Conference scheduled to take place from June 8–12, 2026, in Spokane, Washington.
2. **Action Requested.** State Administrators are encouraged to provide this information to appropriate staff.
3. **Summary and Background.**
 - Summary – ETA is providing up to \$3,000 to each participating state to help cover travel expenses for state UI appeals professionals to participate in training at the National Association of UI Appeals Professionals (NAUIAP) Annual Conference being held June 8–12, 2026, in Spokane, Washington.
 - Background – States are required to provide “an opportunity for a fair hearing before an impartial tribunal for all individuals whose claims for unemployment compensation are denied” (Section 303(a)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 503(a)(3))). A critical functional component of the UI program is the right of the claimant to appeal a negative determination. ETA has established the following three core measures for state appeal activities.¹
 - **States must have an Average Age of Pending Lower Authority Appeals that is equal to or less than 30 days.** For the most recent 12 months ending March 31, 2026, the average age across the country was 149.2 days. Individual state aging ranged from 7.7 to 630.5 days, with 19 states falling short of the acceptable level of performance.

¹ Refer to Core Measures – State Results for performance rankings across states: <https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/ranking.asp>. Refer to UI Program Performance for general performance information, including the acceptable levels of performance: <https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/performance1.asp>.

- **States must have an Average Age of Pending Higher Authority Appeals that is equal to or less than 40 days.** For the most recent 12 -months ending March 31, 2026, the average age across the country was 172.9 days (with six states failing to submit the required reports). Individual state aging ranged from 4.5 to 483.3 days, with 11 states falling short of the acceptable level of performance.
- **States must have a Lower Authority Appeals Quality that is equal to or greater than 80 percent.** For the most recent 12 months ending March 31, 2026, the average rate was 96.6 percent. Individual state quality ranged from 55.7 percent to 100 percent, with one state falling short of the acceptable level of performance.

ETA monitors state programs to: (1) ensure consistent interpretation of the criteria and guidelines for appeals quality; (2) verify consistent reporting; (3) identify areas where training or technical assistance may be needed; and (4) hold states accountable for meeting performance metrics.

The NAUIAP is a professional organization dedicated to the continuous improvement of the UI appellate process. NAUIAP seeks to provide continuing education, share best practices, and ensure due process in all facets of appellate review.

4. **Fiscal Year 2026 Appeals Training.** States are accountable for meeting certain performance metrics to demonstrate effective appeals operations. ETA recognizes the importance of training and peer-to-peer learning to support successful state UI operations.

Availability of Travel Reimbursement. ETA is providing up to \$3,000 to each participating state to help cover travel expenses. Allowable travel costs include transportation, hotel lodging, per diem costs (consistent with the General Services Administration schedule or the state’s out-of-state per diem requirements, whichever is less), and minor incidental costs, such as parking.

States that wish to receive reimbursements must submit their actual expenses to the ETA National Office at ETA-UI-Inquiries@dol.gov, with a CC to the ETA Regional Office. These funds will be added to the participating states’ above-base distribution for the third quarter or fourth quarter.

States are not required to submit receipts along with their reimbursement request. However, states should maintain records for related travel expenses in case additional support detail is requested.

Conference Details. NAUIAP’s Board of Governors will host the 2026 NAUIAP Training Conference at the Centennial Hotel Spokane at 303 West North River Drive, Spokane, WA 99201. Detailed information about hotel reservations and meeting registration can be found on NAUIAP’s website at <http://www.nauiap.org/>.

The 2026 NAUIAP conference will address a broad range of topics for both lower and higher authority UI appellate professionals, including discussions on successful practices, current challenges, and issues related to UI appeals. The conference will include sessions on lessons learned from previous years, enhancing program integrity, and exploring innovative tools for the future.

5. **Inquiries**. Please direct inquiries to the appropriate ETA Regional Office.
6. **References**. Not Applicable.
7. **Attachment(s)**. Not Applicable.