

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY SYSTEM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Washington, D.C. 20210	CLASSIFICATION Unemployment Insurance
	CORRESPONDENCE SYMBOL OUI
	DATE July 11, 2014

ADVISORY: UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM LETTER NO. 13-14,
Change 1

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES

FROM: PORTIA WU 
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Unemployment Insurance (UI) Supplemental Funding for Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (REA) Programs

1. **Purpose.** To notify State Workforce Agencies (SWAs) of the availability of Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 funds to expand existing UI REA programs, or to implement a new REA program if the state does not currently have one.

2. **References.**

- Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, Pub. L. 113-76, Div. H, Title I;
- Unemployment Insurance Program Letter (UIPL) No. 13-14, *UI Supplemental Funding Opportunity for Program Integrity and Performance and System Improvements*; and
- UIPL No. 10-14, *Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Unemployment Insurance (UI) Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (REA) Grants*.

3. **Background.** The UI program provides a core service in the comprehensive, integrated workforce system by providing temporary financial assistance to eligible workers during periods of unemployment. The UI REA program addresses the needs of UI claimants for certain reemployment services and the prevention and detection of UI improper payments. Both activities are high priorities for the U.S. Department of Labor's (Department) Employment and Training Administration (ETA). It provides claimants an entry point to a full array of services available at American Job Centers (AJCs), and enables SWAs to better ensure that claimants comply with all UI eligibility requirements. In states that have UI REA programs, active job seekers filing UI claims are made aware of a variety of available reemployment services and are referred to services that are appropriate.

In April 2014, ETA issued UIPL No. 10-14 to invite SWAs to submit proposals for a grant to continue or to implement a UI REA program, and to provide guidelines for FY 2014 UI REA grants. On June 24, 2014, the Department awarded approximately \$68.7 million to SWAs in 37 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia, to implement or continue re-employment and eligibility assessments for UI beneficiaries. These new awards bring the total number of UI REA participating SWAs to 44.

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On June 16, 2014, ETA issued UIPL No. 13-14 to invite SWAs to submit Supplemental Budget Requests (SBRs) for program integrity, performance improvement, and system improvements. Applications for this funding are due by July 31, 2014. ETA is offering SWAs an opportunity to submit additional requests for UI REA funding concurrently with these SBR requests.

4. **Structure of Funding Opportunity.** The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 appropriated a minimum of \$80 million for 2014 UI REA funding. In June 2014, ETA awarded \$68.7 million in grants from that appropriation and this new solicitation will provide SWAs an additional opportunity to request funding from the unobligated balance, as well as funds from any unearned above base UI state administration funds for FY 2014 that may be available.

States currently participating in the UI REA program may request funds to enhance and/or expand their ongoing program beyond that for which they were awarded funding on June 24, 2014. Expansions may include adding AJCs that are not currently participating or providing assessments to a larger number of claimants in participating AJCs. States among the nine that do not currently have a UI REA program may elect to implement a program. ETA will award requests to implement a new program based on the availability of funding.

UI merit staff, Employment Services staff, or other AJC staff may deliver REA services. The UI eligibility review is a key part of the UI REA for program integrity purposes. If UI merit staff does not conduct the eligibility review, the service delivery staff must be trained to identify all potential eligibility issues. UI merit staff must conduct all eligibility determinations and redeterminations, as they are funded through the regular funding for non-monetary determinations and not through the UI REA grant.

States proposing to expand their state UI REA program or to implement a new UI REA program must follow the UI REA Guidelines published in UIPL No. 10-14.

5. **Application Instructions.** States wishing to expand their existing UI REA program must complete an application consisting of the following documents published as attachments to UIPL No. 10-14:

- Attachment C – *Unemployment Insurance (UI) Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (REA) Proposal Outline for States Continuing a UI REA Program;*
- Attachment B – *Elements of an Unemployment Insurance (UI) Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (REA) Grant Proposal Abstract;* and
- Attachment D – *The Unemployment Insurance (UI) Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (REA) Data Concerns.*

States wishing to implement a new UI REA program must complete an application consisting of the following documents published as attachments to UIPL No. 10-14:

- Attachment A – *Unemployment Insurance (UI) Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (REA) Proposal Outline for First Year UI REA Grants;* and

- Attachment B – *Elements of an Unemployment Insurance (UI) Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (REA) Grant Proposal Abstract.*

All applicants must submit with the proposal a form SF-424 (OMB No. 4040-0004) http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF424_2_1-V2.1.pdf and a form SF-424A (OMB No. 4040-0006) <http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF424A-V1.0.pdf> signed by the SWA Administrator. If any changes to an application are required after ETA review, revised forms will be required before award of the grant funds.

6. **Availability of Funds.** The performance period for FY 2014 UI REA grants begins on April 1, 2014, and ends on March 31, 2015. ETA will obligate funds during this time. However, to allow for potential changes that might occur, the deadline specified by the Grant Officer on the Notice of Obligation for the obligation of these funds will be shown as September 30, 2015. All estimated cost figures for applications for FY 2014 UI REA grants under this UIPL should be based on this time period. For states that are awarded funds to continue a UI REA program, any prior year funds remaining unobligated after March 31, 2014, should be applied to the ongoing UI REA workload before using the FY 2014 UI REA grant funds awarded on June 24, 2014 or under this UIPL.
7. **Action Requested.** ETA requests SWA Administrators to:
 - Provide information contained in this UIPL to appropriate staff; and
 - Submit the completed UI REA application, concurrently with any 2014 UI Integrity SBR application that the SWA files in accordance with the requirements in UIPL No. 13-14, by e-mail to ETA's Office of Unemployment Insurance at IntegritySBRs@dol.gov by the close of business on **Thursday, July 31, 2014**, with an electronic copy provided to the appropriate regional office. **The subject line of the e-mail should include the name of the state and the title "REA Expansion SBR 2014."**
8. **Inquiries.** Please direct questions to the appropriate regional office.