

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY SYSTEM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Washington, D.C. 20210	CLASSIFICATION Unemployment Insurance
	CORRESPONDENCE SYMBOL OUI/DPM
	DATE September 17, 2021

ADVISORY: UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM LETTER NO. 28-20, Change 3

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES

**FROM: LENITA JACOBS-SIMMONS /s/
Acting Assistant Secretary**

SUBJECT: Extension of Time to Submit Request for Funding under Grant Opportunity Announced in Unemployment Insurance Program Letter (UIPL) No. 28-20, Change 2.

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of this UIPL is to advise states that the deadline for submitting an SF-424 for grants to assist states with fraud detection and prevention, including identity verification and overpayment recovery activities, in the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) programs, is extended to October 31, 2021.
2. **Action Requested.** The U.S. Department of Labor’s (Department) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) requests that State Workforce Agency Administrators provide information contained in this UIPL to appropriate staff.
3. **Summary and Background.**
 - a. Summary – On August 11, 2021, the Department issued UIPL No. 28-20, Change 2, advising states of the availability of funding for fraud detection and prevention, identity verification, and overpayment recovery activities in the PUA and PEUC programs. In that UIPL states were advised that SF-424 requests for grants should be submitted no later than September 13, 2021. The Department has determined that states may need additional time to submit SF-424s, and is extending the deadline to October 31, 2021.
 - b. Background – The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was enacted on March 27, 2020, (Public Law (Pub. L.) 116-136) and created new temporary unemployment benefit programs, including PUA and PEUC. These programs extended unemployment benefits and provided unemployment benefits to individuals who were not typically eligible to obtain benefits (*e.g.*, individuals who were self-employed). *See* UIPL No. 14-20. The CARES Act was subsequently amended by the Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act of 2020 (Continued Assistance Act) (Pub. L. 116-260) and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) (Pub. L. 117-2), both of which further amended and extended the CARES Act programs. *See* UIPL Nos. 09-21 and 14-21,

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respectively. With each new enactment, states were required to modify their computer systems and service delivery processes, as well as to notify individuals of changes to eligibility requirements for the PUA and PEUC programs. Addressing both eligibility fraud and identity fraud remain a top priority for the Department and the entire unemployment compensation (UC) system. As discussed in UIPL Nos. 23-20, 28-20, and 28-20, Changes 1 and 2, ETA strongly encourages states to adopt an array of solutions and techniques to detect and fight fraud, have robust strategies in place to verify the identity of individuals applying for unemployment benefits, and strengthen efforts to recover overpayments, including fraudulently paid UC benefits.

4. **Guidance.** Section 5.c. of UIPL No. 28-20, Change 2, provides instructions for applying for a grant under this opportunity. One of the allowable uses for these funds is to procure, implement, and pay reoccurring subscription costs and/or ongoing maintenance costs of identity verification and fraud detection solutions, including using funds to pay for services provided through an order for a state issued by the Department against one of the Department's identity proofing Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs). The Department plans to issue instructions to states on the BPAs and the procedures for the Department to issue orders under those BPAs, in accordance with federal procurement regulations.

The Department has determined that states may need additional time to review UIPL No. 28-20, Change 2, and to develop an SF-424 in response to the solicitation. Therefore, the Department is extending the deadline for submission of the SF-424 to October 31, 2021. All other information in UIPL No. 28-20, Change 2, remains the same.

5. **Inquiries.** Please direct inquiries to COVID-19@dol.gov with a copy to the appropriate ETA Regional Office.

6. **References.**

- American Rescue Plan Act, Pub. L. 117-2, enacted March 11, 2021;
- Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act, Pub. L. 116-260, enacted December 27, 2020;
- CARES Act, Pub. L. 116-136, enacted March 23, 2020;
- UIPL No. 14-21, *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) – Key Unemployment Insurance (UI) Provisions*, issued March 15, 2021, https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=5669;
- UIPL No. 09-21, *Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act of 2020 (Continued Assistance Act) – Summary of Key Unemployment Insurance (UI) Provisions*, issued December 30, 2020, https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=3831;
- UIPL No. 28-20, Change 2, *Additional Funding to Assist with Strengthening Fraud Detection and Prevention Efforts and the Recovery of Overpayments in the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) Programs, as well as Guidance on Processes for Combatting Identity Fraud*, issued August 11, 2021, https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=7207;

- UIPL No. 28-20, Change 1, *Additional Funding for Identity Verification or Verification of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Claimants and Funding to Assist with Efforts to Prevent and Detect Fraud and Identity Theft as well as Recover Fraud Overpayments in the PUA and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) Programs*, issued January 15, 2021, https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=9897;
- UIPL No. 28-20, *Addressing Fraud in the Unemployment Insurance (UI) System and Providing States with Funding to Assist with Efforts to Prevent and Detect Fraud and Identity Theft and Recover Fraud Overpayments in the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) Programs*, issued August 31, 2020, https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=8044; and
- UIPL No. 14-20, *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 - Summary of Key Unemployment Insurance (UI) Provisions and Guidance Regarding Temporary Emergency State Staffing Flexibility*, issued April 2, 2020, https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=3390.

7. **Attachment(s)**. None.