

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY SYSTEM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Washington, D.C. 20210	CLASSIFICATION Unemployment Insurance
	CORRESPONDENCE SYMBOL OUI/DPM
	DATE February 16, 2022

ADVISORY: UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM LETTER NO. 2-22, Change 1

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES

FROM: ANGELA HANKS *AH*
Acting Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Extension of Time for States to Express Interest in the Grant Opportunity Announced in Unemployment Insurance Program 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.

1. **Purpose.** To notify states that the deadline for expressing interest in the grant opportunity announced in UIPL No. 2-22 is extended to September 30, 2022.
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 November 2, 2021, the Department issued UIPL No. 2-22 announcing the availability of up to \$200 million dollars to be awarded to states that agreed to implement recommendations to enhance their business processes to: 1) prevent and detect fraudulent activity, and to recover funds from fraud; 2) promote equitable access; and 3) ensure timely payment of benefits and reduce backlogs across all UC programs. States must first engage with the Department to complete a consultative assessment of their UC program, during which time the Department will leverage a multi-disciplinary team of experts (*i.e.*, Tiger Teams) designed specifically to analyze state UC systems and process challenges. The Tiger Teams will 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. The Department and states will negotiate how to prioritize the recommendations for implementation (*i.e.*, negotiated recommendations).

UIPL No. 2-22 established a deadline of March 31, 2022, for states to express interest in the Tiger Team consultative process. The Department has determined that states may

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need additional time to ensure they have the appropriate supports in place to foster a successful consultative process, and is extending that deadline to September 30, 2022. Further, states should express such interest by contacting their appropriate ETA Regional Office rather than covid-19@dol.gov.

- b. Background – On March 11, 2021, the President signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (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 a \$2,000,000,000 appropriation to the Secretary of Labor to detect and prevent fraud, to promote equitable access, and to ensure timely payment of benefits to eligible workers with respect to UC programs. See section 5.b. of UIPL No. 2-22 for information on allowable uses for such funds to detect and prevent fraud, promote equitable access, and ensure timely payment of benefits across UC programs.

4. **Guidance.** Section 5.c. of UIPL No. 2-22 sets out the steps necessary for states to express an interest in the grant opportunity made available through that UIPL. Section 2 of UIPL No. 2-22 provides that the deadline for expressing an interest in a Tiger Team consultative assessment is March 31, 2022. The Department has determined that states may need additional time to ensure they have the appropriate supports in place to foster a successful consultative process. Therefore, the Department is extending the deadline for states to express interest in a Tiger Team consultative assessment to September 30, 2022. States should express such interest by contacting their appropriate ETA Regional Office rather than covid-19@dol.gov. All other guidance and information in UIPL No. 2-22 remains the same.

The Department encourages states to express their interest as early as possible and to reach out if a state would like to discuss this grant opportunity in more detail.

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;
- CARES Act, Pub. L. 116-136, enacted March 23, 2020; and
- UIPL No. 2-22, *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*, https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=6683.

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