

DECISION

MEMORANDUM FOR: PORTIA WU

FROM: GAY M. GILBERT *mg*

SUBJECT: Recommendations for Awards of State Unemployment Insurance (UI) Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) Grants for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017

We are pleased to provide recommendations for the FY 2017 UI RESEA grant awards. The recommendation is based on the assumption that funding for the program for the entire year will remain at the FY 2016 level of \$115,000,000 and support grant awards in the amount of \$112,000,000. Note that pursuant to report language in the FY 2016 budget which is likely to be retained in FY 2017, \$3,000,000 will be targeted to integrity information technology investments. We propose awarding an initial amount of \$65,000,000, the amount currently available under the Continuing Resolution, to states at this time. Additional RESEA grant funds are expected to be made available following receipt of final appropriations for FY 2017.

A total of 52 state workforce agencies submitted applications for RESEA funding, including two states (North Dakota and Texas) that are reinstating these services after temporary suspensions. The State of Wyoming is the only state not operating this voluntary program.

Background

This is the thirteenth year that grants are being awarded to states for these types of services. As you know, the RESEA program supports a strong connection between UI and reemployment services. These programs bring UI claimants into One-Stop/American Job Centers (AJC) and require that they receive a minimum of one reemployment service. The RESEA program is designed to work within the comprehensive workforce system. UI is a core service within the workforce system and reemployment of UI claimants is a priority. Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), these efforts help ensure that UI services and reemployment service delivery for UI claimants are fully integrated in the one-stop delivery system. WIOA created more opportunities for further aligning and integrating the many programs serving job seekers such as UI claimants who benefit from the services in the public workforce system.

RESEA activities include in-person services in the AJCs. Since most states offer remote UI claims filing, the RESEA program provides an opportunity to introduce claimants to the many AJC services, such as help in preparing for job interviews, resume writing, and other reemployment services designed to help job seekers. The RESEA also entails an examination of an individual's continued UI eligibility and development of an individual reemployment plan. In addition, claimants are provided labor market information for the types of work they

are seeking and they are referred to at least one reemployment service and/or training, if appropriate.

Beginning in FY 2015, two important changes occurred with the RESEA program: 1) states are now permitted to use the grant funds to support reemployment services delivery in addition to the traditional activities supported by the prior Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (REA) program, and 2) the RESEA program is now targeting claimants determined most likely to exhaust unemployment benefits and in need of services as well as transitioning military members who are receiving Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemembers. Generally, both populations have greater barriers to employment and are in need of these services.

Recommended Grant Awards

A list of the states recommended to receive RESEA grants and the amount of each grant is attached along with a copy of a draft press release. We also prepared a memorandum to the Secretary recommending approval to release the grants and a memorandum for the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs (OCIA) to allow OCIA to notify Congressional and Governors' offices of the grants and to support publication of the press release. We will work with OPA and OCIA to coordinate the announcement.

Please let me know if you have questions about these grant awards or if you would like to discuss.

Approve  \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Let's Discuss \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments

**Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Unemployment Insurance (UI) Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) Grants**

<b>State</b>	<b>FY 2017 Award (Initial Award)*</b>
Alabama	\$448,771
Alaska	\$156,353
Arizona	\$413,387
Arkansas	\$244,670
California	\$6,982,052
Colorado	\$112,450
Connecticut	\$838,222
Delaware	\$265,318
District of Columbia	\$359,952
Florida	\$3,233,330
Georgia	\$460,050
Hawaii	\$71,867
Idaho	\$162,556
Illinois	\$752,017
Indiana	\$2,531,762
Iowa	\$855,746
Kansas	\$393,846
Kentucky	\$497,683
Louisiana	\$960,081
Maine	\$720,716
Maryland	\$689,745
Massachusetts	\$3,387,820
Michigan	\$1,189,240
Minnesota	\$844,917
Mississippi	\$552,470
Missouri	\$421,969
Montana	\$156,890
Nebraska	\$287,710
Nevada	\$1,184,102
New Hampshire	\$754,155
New Jersey	\$1,063,379
New Mexico	\$325,637
New York	\$11,215,399
North Carolina	\$2,393,636
North Dakota	\$327,973
Ohio	\$1,811,739
Oklahoma	\$540,991
Oregon	\$2,679,475
Pennsylvania	\$830,840
Puerto Rico	\$165,018
Rhode Island	\$641,101
South Carolina	\$683,834
South Dakota	\$135,772
Tennessee	\$1,418,027
Texas	\$4,280,196
Utah	\$590,017
Vermont	\$403,240
Virgin Islands	\$120,949
Virginia	\$913,800
Washington	\$2,716,898
West Virginia	\$182,669
Wisconsin	\$1,629,564
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$65,000,000</b>

\*FY 17 awards are based on funds available under the Continuing Resolution, which provides Federal funding through April 28, 2017. Additional RESEA grant funds may be made available following final appropriations for FY 2017.