

Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments (RESEA) Innovations

2021 Unemployment Insurance Issues Conference

October 21, 2021

Background

- Reemployment Eligibility Assessment (REA) program began in 2005
- Transitioned to the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program in 2015
 - Based in part on a study of the Nevada model combining reemployment services with eligibility assessments
 - Historic focus on claimants profiled as likely to exhaust, as well as military individuals
- Codified with the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 as a new section in the Social Security Act

Purpose

- To **improve employment outcomes** of individuals that receive unemployment compensation (UC) and to reduce the average duration of receipt of such compensation through employment;
- To **strengthen program integrity** and reduce improper payments;
- To promote **alignment with the vision of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act** of increased program integration and service deliver; and
- To **establish RESEA as an entry point** to other workforce system partners.

A waiver of work search is not equivalent to a waiver of RESEA!

Funding

- Subject to availability of federal funds, requested \$250 million for FY 2022 (up from \$200 million in FY 2021)
 - 89% awarded via formula allocation;
 - 10% set-aside for outcome payments; and
 - 1% reserved by the Department to conduct research and provide technical assistance.

Structure

- Initial RESEA meeting includes, at a minimum:
 - Individualized UC eligibility review;
 - Customized labor market and career information;
 - Enrollment in the Employment Services program;
 - Support, to the extent needed, for development of an individual reemployment plan; and
 - Information and referrals to additional reemployment services, resources, and training.
- Subsequent RESEA meeting(s) (as determined by the state), include, at a minimum:
 - Individualized UC eligibility review; and
 - Review of the claimant's work search activities.

Building Program Evidence

- Beginning in FY 2023, states will be required to use at least 25% of grant funds for interventions and service delivery strategies with high or moderate causal evidence ratings that show a demonstrated capacity to improve employment and earnings outcomes for program participants. This amount increases incrementally through FY 2027.
- [RESEA Evaluation and Evidence Resources](#) available on WorkforceGPS, including an evaluation resource list
- Several states are in the midst of program-wide evaluations. We are working with our partners in the Chief Evaluation Office to support states in evaluating individual components of the RESEA experience (e.g., remote and virtual service delivery).

Looking Ahead

FY 2021

- States continue with evidence-based decisions
- Formula allocation begins ([84 Fed Reg 39018](#) published August 8, 2019)
- DOL reports to Congress on [promising reemployment practices](#)
- Performance measures implemented ([UIPL No. 07-21](#) published December 17, 2020)

FY 2022

- First outcome payment distribution for FY 2021 ([86 Fed Reg 57856](#) published October 19, 2021)
- Continuing to ramp up this permanent program
- States continue with evidence-based decisions
- States using more remote delivery of services
- States hiring staff to expand use of the program

FY 2023

- States continue with evidence-based decisions
- Evidence-based funding in use
 - 25% FY 2023 and FY 2024
 - 40% FY 2025 and 2026
 - 50% FY 2027 and later

Forthcoming Guidance

- FY 2022 operating guidance and request for state plans
- Updates to worker model on how states identify individuals who are most likely to exhaust benefits