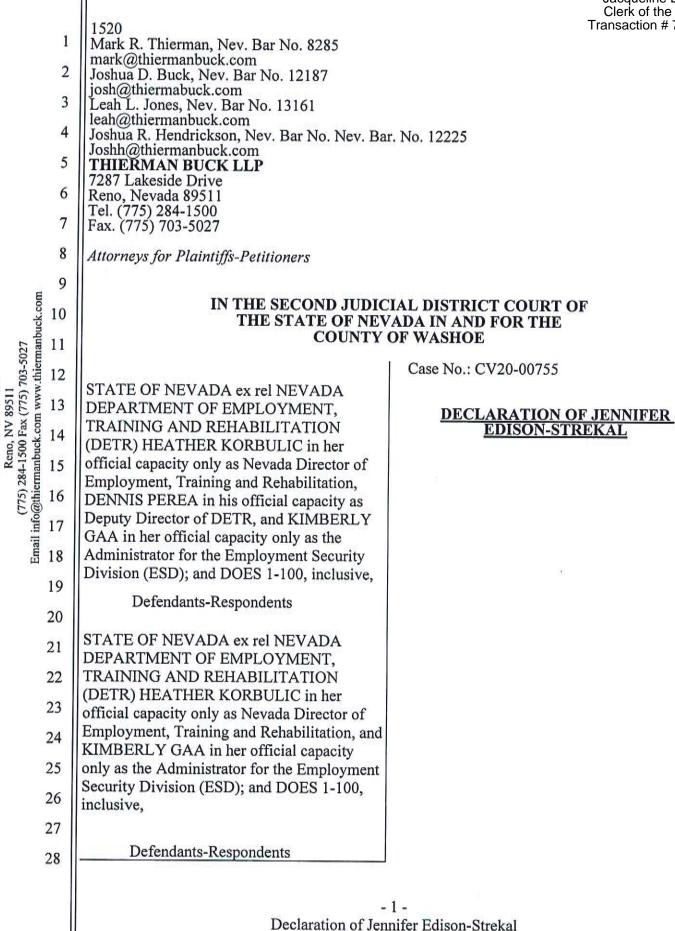
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IHIERMAN BUCK LLP

7287 Lakeside Drive

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THIERMAN BUCK LLP

287 Lakeside Drive Reno, NV 89511 2 County of Washoe.

I, Declaration of Jennifer Edison-Strekal, hereby declare and state:

1. The following declaration is based upon my own personal observation and knowledge, and if called upon to testify to the things contained herein, I could competently so testify.

2. I am employed as a Paralegal by the law firm of Thierman Buck, LLP.

3. Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is, United States Department of Labor Unemployment Compensation Letter No. 14-20.

4. Attached hereto as Exhibit 2 is, United States Department of Labor Unemployment Insurance Program Letter No. 15-20

I have read the forgoing declaration consisting of this single page and declare under penalty of perjury that it is true and correct.

AFFIRMATION

The undersigned does hereby affirm that the proceeding document to be filed in the Second Judicial District Court in the State of Nevada, County of Washoe, does not contain the social security number of any person.

Executed this 22nd day of June 2020 at Reno, Nevada.

Jennifer Edison-Strekal

EXHIBIT 1

Program Letter 14-20 "PL 14-20"

EXHIBIT 1

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
ADVISORY SYSTEM
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Washington, D.C. 20210

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OUI

CORRESPONDENCE SYMBOL OUI/DL

DATE April 2, 2020

ADVISORY: UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM LETTER NO. 14-20

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES

FROM: JOHN PALLASCH Sistant Secretary

SUBJECT: 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

- 1. **Purpose.** To provide states with a summary of the UI provisions in Title II, Subtitle A of the CARES Act of 2020, Public Law (Pub. L.) 116-136 and to provide states with guidance regarding the emergency state staffing flexibility provisions.
- 2. Action Requested. The Department of Labor's (Department) Employment and Training Administration requests State Workforce Administrators provide the information contained in this Unemployment Insurance Program Letter (UIPL) to appropriate program and other staff in state workforce systems as they implement the UI-related provisions that respond to the economic effects of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- 3. Summary and Background.
 - a. Summary On March 27, 2020, the U.S. President signed into law the CARES Act. This legislation provides emergency assistance and health care response for certain individuals, families, and businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act includes the Relief for Workers Affected by Coronavirus Act set out in Title II, Subtitle A.
 - b. Background The Department addressed permissible flexibility for states under existing federal law in response to the COVID-19 pandemic with the publication of UIPL No. 10-20, Unemployment Compensation (UC) for Individuals Affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), issued on March 12, 2020.

RESCISSIONS	EXPIRATION DATE
None	Continuing

The President also signed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Pub. L. 116-127) on March 18, 2020, which includes the Emergency Unemployment Insurance Stabilization and Access Act of 2020 (EUISAA) set out in Division D. EUISAA provides: 1) emergency administrative grants to states; 2) emergency flexibilities to states related to temporarily modifying certain aspects of their UC laws; 3) a short-term waiver of Title XII (42 U.S.C. §1321 et al.) interest payments due and interest accrual on Title XII advances to states; and 4) full federal funding, under certain circumstances, of extended benefits (EB) paid through December 31, 2020. The Department provided guidance for implementation of these new provisions in UIPL No. 13-20, *Families First Coronavirus Response Act, Division D Emergency Unemployment Insurance Stabilization and Access Act of 2020*, issued on March 22, 2020. EUISAA also requires the Department to provide technical assistance and guidance to assist states in establishing, implementing, and improving employer awareness of the Short-Time Compensation (STC) program, also known as Shared Work or Work Share.

The UI program is facing an unprecedented demand due to the economic effects of COVID-19. The CARES Act builds upon actions previously taken by the Department, Congress, and the President, by including, among other things, provisions for temporary coverage of individuals who have exhausted their entitlement to regular UC and individuals who are not eligible for regular UC, such as individuals who are self-employed or have limited recent work history. It also provides individuals who are collecting certain benefits with an additional \$600 in Federal benefits per week for weeks of unemployment ending on or before July 31, 2020.

This UIPL includes a summary of the UI-related provisions in Title II, Subtitle A of the CARES Act and provides guidance to states for implementing the temporary emergency state staffing flexibility provision. Additional and more detailed instruction for implementing the CARES Act will be provided in forthcoming guidance.

Importance of Program Integrity. The programs and provisions in the CARES Act operate in tandem with the fundamental eligibility requirements of the Federal-State UI program, which remain in place. In addition, some of the programs include new eligibility requirements. These requirements include that individuals are only entitled to benefits if they are no longer working through no fault of their own and that individuals must be able and available to work.

While the Act does provide workers some flexibilities, quitting work without good cause to obtain additional benefits would be fraud. Sections 2104(f) and 2107(e) expressly provide that if an individual has obtained the benefit through fraud, the individual is ineligible for any additional benefit payments, must pay back the benefits, and is subject to prosecution under 18 USC §1001.

States play a fundamental role in ensuring the integrity of the UI program. While states have been provided some flexibilities as a result of COVID-19, those

flexibilities are generally limited to dealing with the effects of COVID-19, as discussed in UIPL Nos. 10-20 and 13-20. States must ensure that individuals only receive benefits in accordance with these statutory provisions.

The Department is actively working with states receiving funding under the Act to provide unemployment insurance benefits only to those who are entitled to such benefits. The Department is also actively engaging with the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to ensure program integrity. The Act includes an appropriation of \$26 million to the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Labor (Section 2115) to carry out audits, investigations, and other oversight activities related to states' adherence to existing UI laws and policies, as well as the provisions described above.

4. Details

- a. Summary of Provisions. The CARES Act authorizes the following provisions.
 - i. *Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)* (Section 2102). This program provides up to 39 weeks of benefits and is available starting with weeks of unemployment beginning on or after January 27, 2020 and ending on or before December 31, 2020.

This program covers individuals who are self-employed, seeking part-time employment, or whom otherwise would not qualify for regular UC or EB under state or federal law or Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) under section 2107. Coverage also includes individuals who have exhausted all rights to regular UC or EB under state or federal law, or PEUC.

Operationally, this program will be administered similar to the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program. This program is available in the United States, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the District of Columbia, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Puerto Rico, the Republic of Palau, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, provided the state/territory signs an agreement with the Department.

Individuals must demonstrate that they are otherwise able to work and available for work within the meaning of applicable state law, except that they are unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable or unavailable to work because of the COVID-19 related reasons specified in section 2102(a)(3)(A)(ii)(I) of the CARES Act.

ii. *Emergency unemployment relief for governmental entities and non-profit organizations* (Section 2103). The Department is authorized to issue guidance to allow states to interpret their state UC laws in a manner that would provide maximum flexibility to reimbursing employers as it relates to timely payments in lieu of contributions and assessment of penalties and interest.

This section of the CARES Act also provides for transfers to a state's account in the unemployment trust fund from the Federal Unemployment Account to provide partial reimbursements (generally 50 percent of the amount of payments in lieu of contributions) to state and local governmental entities, certain nonprofit organizations, and federally recognized Indian tribes for weeks of unemployment between March 13, 2020 and December 31, 2020. These partial reimbursements apply to all payments made during this time period, even if the unemployed individual is not unemployed as a result of COVID-19.

 Emergency increase in unemployment compensation benefits, called Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) (Section 2104). This program provides an additional \$600 per week to individuals who are collecting regular UC (including Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) and Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemembers (UCX)), PEUC, PUA, EB, STC, Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA), Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), and payments under the Self Employment Assistance (SEA) program. This is available for weeks of unemployment beginning after the date on which the state enters into an agreement with the Department and ending with weeks of unemployment ending on or before July 31, 2020.

This program is available in the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, provided the state/territory signs an agreement with the Department.

Among the requirements of this program is a non-reduction rule, which prohibits states from changing the computation method governing regular UC law in a way that results in the reduction of average weekly benefit amounts or the number of weeks of benefits payable (*i.e.*, maximum benefit entitlement).

- iv. Temporary full federal funding of the first week of compensable regular unemployment for states with no waiting week (Section 2105). States that provide compensation to individuals for their first week of unemployment (*i.e.*, states which do not require a waiting week) and that enter into an agreement with the Department will receive 100 percent federal funding for the total amount of regular UC paid to individuals for their first week of regular UC. This funding is available for weeks of unemployment beginning after the date on which the state enters into an agreement with the Department and ends with weeks of unemployment ending on or before December 31, 2020.
- v. *Emergency state staffing flexibility* (Section 2106). States are provided with limited emergency flexibility regarding the suspension of the requirement to use

personnel standards on a merit basis through December 31, 2020. This provision is discussed in more detail in subsection D below.

vi. *Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)* (Section 2107). This program provides up to 13 weeks of benefits and is available for weeks of unemployment beginning after the date on which the state enters into an agreement with the Department and ending with weeks of unemployment ending on or before December 31, 2020.

This program covers individuals who: have exhausted all rights to regular UC under state or federal law; have no rights to regular UC under any other state or federal law; are not receiving compensation under the UC laws of Canada; and are able to work, available for work, and actively seeking work. However, states shall offer flexibility in meeting the "actively seeking work" requirement if individuals are unable to search for work because of COVID-19, including because of illness, quarantine, or movement restriction.

Among the requirements of this program is a non-reduction rule, which prohibits states from changing the computation method governing regular UC law in a way that results in the reduction of average weekly benefit amounts or the number of weeks of benefits payable (*i.e.*, maximum benefit entitlement).

vii. Temporary financing, agreements, and grants for Short-Time Compensation (STC) (Section 2108 through Section 2111). STC, also known as Shared Work or Work Share, is a lay-off aversion program where an employer reduces the hours for a group of workers to avoid layoffs and these workers receive a partial unemployment benefit payment.

Section 2108 provides that states with an existing STC program under section 3306(v) of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) may be reimbursed for 100 percent of STC benefit costs, up to a maximum of 26 weeks of STC per individual. These reimbursements are available starting with weeks of unemployment beginning on or after March 27, 2020 and ending with weeks of unemployment ending on or before December 31, 2020.

If a state enacts a new law providing for the payment of STC after March 27, 2020, then reimbursements are available starting with the effective date of the state law enactment and ending with weeks of unemployment ending on or before December 31, 2020.

Section 2109 provides that states without an existing STC program in the state's UC law may provide STC benefits under an agreement with the Secretary of Labor and be reimbursed for one-half of STC benefit costs, with the employer paying the other half, up to a maximum of 26 weeks of STC per individual. This

federal STC program is available for weeks of unemployment beginning on or after the date on which the state enters into an agreement with the Department and ending with weeks of unemployment ending on or before December 31, 2020.

Section 2110 provides for a \$100 million grant to be shared across states for implementation or improved administration, and promotion and enrollment of a state's STC program. Each state's share is calculated based on \$100 million minus funds used by the Department for outreach (up to 0.25 percent), multiplied by the state's proportionate share of calendar year 2018 FUTA taxable wages, as described under Section 903(a)(2)(B), SSA (42 U.S.C. §1103(a)(2)(B)). Grant applications must be submitted by December 31, 2023.

Section 2111 provides that the Department shall develop model legislative language, or disseminate existing model language, which may be used by states in developing and enacting STC programs. The Department will also develop reporting requirements for states and provide technical assistance. The Department expects that the reporting requirements and technical assistance will be similar to those developed following enactment of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-96). Please see materials on the STC landing page on WorkforceGPS at <u>https://stc.workforcegps.org/</u>.

A summary table of these provisions is included with **Attachment 1**.

- b. **Coordination of Programs.** An individual may establish eligibility for multiple benefit programs, including multiple programs authorized in the CARES Act. The information provided below regarding the order of payment is contingent on the individual meeting all eligibility criteria for the respective program(s). It is also contingent on the state having entered into an agreement with the Secretary of Labor to administer such program(s).
 - i. For an individual who <u>is eligible</u> for regular UC (including UCFE and UCX), the following order of payment applies.
 - A. The individual must first apply for and receive regular UC. The amount and duration of these benefits are dependent on state law.
 - B. If the individual exhausts regular UC, the individual may then be eligible to receive PEUC under section 2107. The duration of these benefits is limited to 13 weeks.
 - C. If the individual exhausts PEUC and the state has "triggered on" to EB as defined under the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970 (26 U.S.C. §3304 note), the individual may then be eligible to receive EB. The duration of these benefits is up to 13 or 20 weeks, dependent on the state's unemployment rate and if state law includes a trigger for periods of high unemployment.

D. If the state is not "triggered on" to EB or the individual exhausts EB, the individual may then be eligible to receive PUA under section 2104. Note that at least one of the identified COVID-19 related reasons specified in section 2102(a)(3)(A)(ii)(I) must apply to the individual in order to be eligible for PUA. The duration of these benefits is generally limited to 39 weeks, minus any weeks that the individual received from regular UC and EB. The weeks for which an individual collected PEUC will not be deducted from the individual's PUA entitlement.

If a state "triggers on" to EB during the period in which an individual is collecting PUA and the individual has not previously exhausted entitlement to EB for the respective benefit year, then the individual must stop collecting PUA and file for EB. The thresholds for a state to trigger "on" to EB are described in Section 203 of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970 (26 U.S.C. §3304 note).

If the individual meets the qualifications to receive Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA), such benefits will be payable after the programs listed above.

- ii. For an individual who is not eligible for regular UC, extended benefits under state or federal law, or PEUC, and who meets the requirements under section 2102(a)(3)(A)(ii)(I), the individual may collect PUA under section 2102. The duration of these benefits is limited to 39 weeks, minus any weeks that the individual may have received from regular UC and EB.
- iii. The Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) under section 2104 provides for an additional \$600 per week to an individual collecting regular UC, PEUC, PUA, EB, STC, TRA, DUA, and SEA. Individuals receive FPUC payments concurrently with payments under these programs. Upon execution of an agreement between the state and Department, this applies to all weeks of unemployment ending on or before July 31, 2020.

A number of states also have provisions within state law for extending the potential duration of benefits during periods of high unemployment for individuals in approved training who exhaust benefits, or for a variety of other reasons.¹ Although some state laws call these programs "extended benefits," the Department uses the term "additional benefits" (AB) to avoid confusion with the federal-state EB program. FPUC is not payable to individuals receiving AB payments. The order of payment for AB within the context of the multiple programs described above is dependent on state law.

¹ Reference Table 4-4 of the *Comparison of State Unemployment Insurance Laws* found at <u>https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/statelaws.asp</u>.

No payments for PEUC or PUA may be made for weeks of unemployment ending on or after December 31, 2020. Further details regarding definitions for terms and eligibility criteria for each program will be provided in future guidance.

c. **Funding for States.** For benefit programs included in the CARES Act, full reimbursement of benefits payable for PUA, FPUC, and PEUC will be made available to state agencies through Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system.

Federal funding for emergency unemployment relief for governmental entities and nonprofit organizations and temporary full federal funding of the first week of regular compensation for states with no waiting week will be provided for as transfers from the Federal Unemployment Account to state unemployment accounts.

Eligible reimbursements of STC benefits under section 2108 and section 2109 will be provided on a monthly basis to states through the Health and Human Services Payment Management System. Upon approval, STC grants described in section 2110 will be transferred to state unemployment accounts.

For administrative expenses, the CARES Act provides for reimbursement of such sums as the Secretary estimates to be necessary for implementation of certain provisions contained in the Act. More specific information on detailed benefit transactions and computation and delivery of administrative expenses is forthcoming in subsequent guidance.

d. **Emergency Flexibility for State Staffing**. CARES provides for temporary and limited emergency flexibility regarding the suspension of required merit personnel standards, as discussed below.

States are reminded of the existing flexibility described in UIPL No. 12-01, *Outsourcing of Unemployment Compensation Administrative Functions*, issued on December 28, 2000, and UIPL No. 12-01, Change 1, *Outsourcing of Unemployment Compensation Administrative Functions – Claims Taking*, issued on November 26, 2007.

Staffing Flexibilities Provided in the CARES Act

In response to the spread of COVID-19, section 2106, CARES, amends section 4102(b) of EUISAA to read:

"Notwithstanding any other law, if a State modifies its unemployment compensation law and policies with respect to work search, waiting week, good cause, employer experience rating, **or**, **subject to the succeeding sentence, personnel standards on a merit basis on an emergency** temporary basis as needed to respond to the spread of COVID-19, such modifications shall be disregarded for the purposes of applying section 303 of the Social Security Act and section 3304 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to such State law. The emergency flexibility for personnel standards on a merit basis shall only apply through December 31, 2020, and is limited to engaging of temporary staff, rehiring of retirees or former employees on a non-competitive basis, and other temporary actions to quickly process applications and claims." (emphasis added).

This provision gives states maximum flexibility to recruit and select staff through December 31, 2020, to quickly process applications and claims. Note that the flexibility only applies for responding to workload and increased demand resulting from the spread of COVID-19.

Within this emergency flexibility, states must continue to ensure that eligibility decisions are based solely on the facts of each case and a reasonable application of the state's UC law to those facts. States must also ensure that individuals making decisions have the knowledge and training necessary to make the correct decisions. States are reminded of the quality standards, as described in 20 C.F.R. Part 602 and further discussed in ET Handbook No. 301 (5th Edition, Change 1), *UI Performs: Benefits Timeliness and Quality Nonmonetary Determinations Quality Review* and ET Handbook No. 395 (5th Edition), *Revision to the State Operations Handbook for the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefit Accuracy Measurement (BAM) Program*, which remain in effect.

States should work closely with their human resources departments to increase staffing levels quickly to respond to the increased demand.

e. **Emergency Flexibility across Programs.** Many states have adopted temporary emergency flexibility measures for their regular UC program, as provided by section 4102(b) of EUISAA, as discussed in UIPL No. 13-20.

The eligibility requirements for collecting PUA are different from those of regular UC and will be addressed in forthcoming guidance. The relationship between temporary emergency flexibility measures for regular UC and EB will also be addressed in future guidance.

Any temporary emergency flexibility measures that states have adopted for regular UC under 4102(b) of EUISAA are applicable to the administration of PEUC. Additionally, section 2107(a)(7)(B) of the CARES Act requires that states provide flexibility for PEUC "in case of individuals unable to search for work because of COVID-19, including because of illness quarantine, or movement restriction."

5. Inquiries. We encourage states to contact the Department for technical assistance. Please direct inquiries to <u>covid-19@dol.gov</u>, with a copy to the appropriate Regional Office.

6. References.

- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (Pub. L. 116-136), including Title II Subtitle A Relief for Workers Affected by Coronavirus Act;
- Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Pub. L. 116-127), including Division D Emergency Unemployment Insurance Stabilization and Access Act of 2020 (EUISAA);
- Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-96);
- Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970, 26 U.S.C. §3304 note;
- Section 303, Social Security Act (SSA), 42 U.S.C. §503;
- Section 3306, Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA), 42 U.S.C. §3306;
- 20 C.F.R. Part 602;
- UIPL No. 12-01, *Outsourcing of Unemployment Compensation Administrative Functions*, issued on December 28, 2000, https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=1736;
- UIPL No. 12-01, Change 1, *Outsourcing of Unemployment Compensation Administrative Functions – Claims Taking*, issued on November 26, 2007, https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=2558;
- UIPL No. 10-20, Unemployment Compensation (UC) for Individuals Affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), issued on March 12, 2020, https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=8893;
- UIPL No. 13-20, Families First Coronavirus Response Act, Division D Emergency Unemployment Insurance Stabilization and Access Act of 2020, issued on March 22, 2020, <u>https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=8634;</u>
- ET Handbook No. 301 (5th Edition, Change 1), *UI Performs: Benefits Timeliness and Quality Nonmonetary Determinations Quality Review*, https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=2158;
- ET Handbook No. 395 (5th Edition), *Revision to the State Operations Handbook for the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefit Accuracy Measurement (BAM) Program,* <u>https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=2822;</u> and
- Short-Time Compensation (STC) landing page on WorkforceGPS, <u>https://stc.workforcegps.org/</u>.

7. Attachment(s).

• Attachment I: Summary of Programs for the Relief for Workers Affected by Coronavirus Act

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020, Public Law (Pub. L.) 116-136 Summary of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) provisions in Title II, Subtitle A

Program and Section	Period of Applicability	What it Does
Reference from Act		
Pandemic	Weeks of unemployment	Provides for up to 39 weeks of benefits to individuals who are self-
Unemployment	beginning on or after	employed, seeking part-time employment, or otherwise would not qualify
Assistance (PUA) (Sec.	01/27/20 through	for regular unemployment compensation (UC) or extended benefits under
2102)	12/31/20	state or federal law or Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
		under section 2107. Coverage includes individuals who have exhausted all
		rights to regular UC or extended benefits under state or federal law or
		PEUC.
Emergency	Weeks of unemployment	Authorizes the Department to issue guidance to allow states to interpret
Unemployment Relief of	from 03/13/20 through	their state UC laws in a manner that would provide maximum flexibility to
Governmental Entities	12/31/20	reimbursing employers as it relates to timely payment and assessment of
and Non-profit		penalties and interest.
Organizations (Sec.		
2103)		Also provides for transfers to a state's account in the unemployment trust
		fund from the Federal Unemployment Account to allow partial
		reimbursements (generally 50 percent of the amount of payments in lieu of
		contributions) to state and local governmental entities, certain nonprofit
		organizations, and federally recognized Indian tribes.
Federal Pandemic	Weeks of unemployment	Provides individuals who are collecting regular UC, PEUC, PUA, EB, STC,
Unemployment	beginning after the date	TRA, DUA, and SEA with an additional \$600 per week.
Compensation (FPUC)	of signed agreement	
(Sec. 2104)	through 07/31/20	

Temporary Full Federal Funding of the First Week of Compensable Regular Unemployment (Sec. 2105)	Weeks of unemployment beginning after the date of signed agreement through 12/31/20	For states without a waiting week, provides 100% federal funding for the total amount of regular UC paid to individuals for their first week of regular UC.
Emergency State Staffing Flexibility (Sec. 2106)	03/27/20 through 12/31/20	Provides state agencies with emergency flexibility for personnel standards on a merit basis limited to engaging of temporary staff, rehiring of retirees or former employees on a non-competitive basis, and other temporary actions to quickly process applications and claims.
Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) (Sec. 2107)	Weeks of unemployment beginning after the date of signed agreement through 12/31/20	Provides for up to 13 weeks of benefits to individuals who have exhausted regular UC under state or federal law, have no rights to regular UC under any other state or federal law, are not receiving compensation under the UC laws of Canada, and are able to work, available for work, and actively seeking work. However, states must offer flexibility in meeting the "actively seeking work" requirement if individuals are unable to search for work because of COVID-19, including because of illness, quarantine, or movement restriction.
Temporary Financing for existing Short-Time Compensation (STC) Programs (Sec. 2108)	03/27/20 through 12/31/20	Provides that states with an existing STC program may be reimbursed for 100 percent of STC benefit costs, up to a maximum of 26 weeks of STC per individual.
Temporary Financing of STC agreements (Sec. 2109)	Weeks of unemployment beginning after the date of signed agreement through 12/31/20	Provides that states without an existing STC program may provide STC benefits under an agreement with the Secretary of Labor and be reimbursed for one-half of STC benefit costs, up to a maximum of 26 weeks of STC per individual.
Grants for STC Programs (Sec. 2110)	Grant applications must be submitted by 12/31/23	Provides for a \$100 million grant to be shared across states for implementation or improved administration, and promotion and enrollment of the state's STC program.

Assistance and Guidance	Effective 03/27/20	Provides that the Department shall develop model legislative language or
for Administering		disseminate existing model language, which may be used by states in
Programs (Sec. 2111)		developing and enacting STC programs. The Department will also develop
		reporting requirements for states and provide technical assistance.

EXHIBIT 2

United States Department of Labor Unemployment Insurance Program Letter 15-20 "PL 15-20"

EXHIBIT 2

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY SYSTEM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Washington, D.C. 20210

CLASSIFICATION

Unemployment Insurance

CORRESPONDENCE SYMBOL OUI/DUIO

DATE April 4, 2020

ADVISORY: UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM LETTER NO. 15-20

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES

FROM: JOHN PALLASCH Assistant Secretary

- **SUBJECT:** Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) Program Operating, Financial, and Reporting Instructions
- 1. <u>Purpose</u>. To provide states with operating, financial, and reporting instructions for the FPUC program authorized by Section 2104, Emergency Increase in Unemployment Compensation Benefits, of the CARES Act of 2020, Public Law (Pub. L.) 116-136.
- 2. <u>Action Requested</u>. The Department of Labor's (Department) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) requests that State Workforce Administrators provide the information in this Unemployment Insurance Program Letter (UIPL) and the Attachments I through V to appropriate program and other staff in state workforce systems as they implement the Unemployment Insurance (UI)-related provisions that respond to the economic effects of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

3. Summary and Background.

- a. Summary On March 27, 2020, the President signed into law the CARES Act, which includes the Relief for Workers Affected by Coronavirus Act set out in Title II, Subtitle A. Section 2104 of the CARES Act provides for a temporary emergency increase in unemployment compensation benefits, referred to as FPUC, and includes funding to states for the administration of the program.
- b. Background The CARES Act was designed to mitigate the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in a variety of ways. The CARES Act includes provisions for providing certain benefits to individuals who have exhausted their entitlement to regular unemployment compensation (UC) and who are not eligible for regular UC, such as individuals who are self-employed or have limited recent work history.

RESCISSIONS	EXPIRATION DATE
None	Continuing

This UIPL focuses on Section 2104 of the CARES Act, which authorizes the temporary FPUC program. This program provides eligible individuals with \$600 per week in addition to the weekly benefit amount they receive from certain other UC programs.

Importance of Program Integrity. The programs and provisions in the CARES Act operate in tandem with the fundamental eligibility requirements of the Federal-State UI program which must be adhered to. In addition, some of the CARES Act programs include new eligibility requirements which states will need to apply. These requirements include that individuals are only entitled to benefits if they are no longer working through no fault of their own and that individuals must be able and available to work.

States play a fundamental role in ensuring the integrity of the UI program. While states have been provided some flexibilities as a result of COVID-19, those flexibilities are generally limited to dealing with the effects of COVID-19, as discussed in UIPL Nos. 10-20 and 13-20. States must ensure that individuals only receive benefits in accordance with these statutory provisions.

Further, quitting work without good cause to obtain additional benefits under the regular UI program or the CARES Act qualifies as fraud. Sections 2104(f) and 2107(e) expressly provide that if an individual has obtained these benefits through fraud, the individual is ineligible for any additional benefit payments, must pay back the benefits, and is subject to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. §1001. States are expected to enforce these provisions.

The Department is actively working with states receiving funding under the Act to provide UI benefits only to those who are entitled to such benefits. The Department will also be actively engaged with its Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to ensure program integrity. The Act includes an appropriation of \$26 million to the Department's OIG (Section 2115) to carry out audits, investigations, and other oversight activities related to states' adherence to existing UI laws and policies, as well as the provisions of the Act.

- 4. <u>Guidance</u>. The following section identifies the types of UC benefits that an individual must be receiving to be entitled to receive FPUC and includes important program dates and details about program administration. Refer to Attachment I for implementing and operating instructions and Attachment II for general provisions for administering FPUC. Section 2104 of the CARES Act is provided in Attachment III. Attachment IV and Attachment V provide the Supplemental Budget Request (SBR) Application and the Instructions for Completing the SF-424 and SF-424A respectively.
 - a. **Programs which entitle an individual to receive FPUC.** This program provides an additional \$600 per week to individuals who are collecting regular UC (including Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) and Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemembers (UCX)), as well as the following unemployment compensation programs:

- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC);
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA);
- Extended Benefits (EB);
- Short-Time Compensation (STC);
- Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA);
- Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); and
- Payments under the Self-Employment Assistance (SEA) program.

A number of state laws include provisions for extending the potential duration of benefits during periods of high unemployment for individuals in approved training who exhaust benefits, or for a variety of other reasons.¹ Although some state laws call these programs "extended benefits," the Department uses the term "additional benefits" (AB) to avoid confusion with the Federal-State EB program. FPUC is not payable to individuals who are receiving AB payments.

b. **Important program dates.** FPUC is payable for weeks of unemployment beginning on or after the date on which the state enters into an agreement with the Department. In states where the week of unemployment ends on a Saturday, the first week for which FPUC may be paid is the week ending April 4, 2020, provided an agreement was in place no later than March 28, 2020. In states where the week of unemployment ends on a Sunday, the first week for which FPUC may be paid is the week for which FPUC may be paid is the week for which FPUC may be paid is the week of an agreement was in place no later than March 29, 2020.

FPUC is not payable for any week of unemployment ending after July 31, 2020. Accordingly, in states where the week of unemployment ends on a Saturday, the last week that FPUC may be paid is the week ending July 25, 2020. For states where the week of unemployment ends on a Sunday, the last week that FPUC is payable is the week ending July 26, 2020.

c. **Program administration funding for FPUC program.** The cost of these additional \$600 payments to eligible individuals each week is 100% federally funded. States may not charge employers for any FPUC benefits paid.

The FPUC program is administered through a voluntary agreement between a state and the Department. This program is available in the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, provided the state/territory signs an agreement with the Department. Implementation costs and ongoing administrative costs for this program are also 100% federally funded.

¹ Reference Table 4-4 of the *Comparison of State Unemployment Insurance Laws* found at <u>https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/statelaws.asp</u>.

If a state wishes to have the administrative costs for implementation of this program federally funded, the state must submit a SBR detailing such costs. SBRs are limited to one-time costs that are attributable to implementation of FPUC.

Permissible implementation costs include:

- Computer programming and other technology costs;
- Implementation of necessary business processes required for program implementation;
- Training and travel;
- Notices to beneficiaries; and
- Overhead related only to the above.

The basis for these estimated costs must be included in the SBR application. Calculations for costs for state staff and contractors should be shown in accordance with the SBR instructions in ET Handbook No. 336, *Unemployment Insurance State Quality Service Plan Planning and Reporting Guidelines*. States must submit the SBR application for implementation of FPUC, along with required SF-424 and SF-424A forms, by **April 21, 2020**. This may be electronically submitted to the National Office at <u>covid-19@dol.gov</u>, with a copy to the appropriate Regional Office. For application submission instructions refer to **Attachment IV**, SBR Application Template, and **Attachment V**, Instructions for Completing the SF-424 and SF-424A.

State agencies will be able to request on-going administrative costs for FPUC via the quarterly UI-3 report. More specific information is included in **Attachment I**, Section G, "Reporting Instructions."

- 5. <u>Inquiries</u>. States should direct inquiries to the <u>covid-19@dol.gov</u> and copy the appropriate Regional Office.
- 6. <u>References</u>.
 - *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* (Pub. L. 116-136), including Title II Subtitle A Relief for Workers Affected by Coronavirus Act;
 - 5 U.S.C. Chapter 85;
 - Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970 (26 U.S.C. §3304 note);
 - Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. §2291 et seq.);
 - Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act (42 U.S.C. §5121 et seq.);
 - Section 3304 of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) (26 U.S.C. §3304);
 - Section 3306(v), FUTA (26 U.S.C. §3306(v));
 - Section 303 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §503);
 - 20 C.F.R. Part 603;
 - ET Handbook No. 336 (18th Edition), Unemployment Insurance State Quality Service Plan Planning and Reporting Guidelines,

https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/ETAHandbook/ET_Handbook_No.336_18th_Edition_Change_4_acc.pdf;

- ET Handbook No. 384, *Unemployment Compensation for Ex-servicemembers*, <u>https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=465;</u>
- ET Handbook No. 391, UCFE Handbook for State Agencies, https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=2233;
- ET Handbook No. 401, *UI Report Handbook*, https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=7774;
- UIPL No. 14-20, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 – Summary of Key Unemployment Insurance (UI) Provisions and Temporary Emergency State Staffing Flexibility, issued on April 2, 2020, <u>https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=3390;</u>
- UIPL No. 05-13, Work Search and Overpayment Offset Provisions Added to Permanent Federal Unemployment Compensation Law by Title II, Subtitle A of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, issued January 10, 2013, https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=3698; and
- Comparison of State Unemployment Insurance Laws found at https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/statelaws.asp.

7. Attachments.

- Attachment I: Implementing and Operating Instructions for the FPUC Program;
- Attachment II: General Provisions for Administering the FPUC Program;
- Attachment III: Statutory Language of Section 2104 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020;
- Attachment IV: Supplemental Budget Request (SBR) Application; and
- Attachment V: Instructions for Completing the SF-424 and SF-424A.

Attachment I to UIPL No. 15-20

Implementing and Operating Instructions for the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) Program

A. Introduction.

Section 2104 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 provides for a temporary emergency increase in unemployment compensation (UC) benefits, referred to as the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program. This program provides an eligible individual with \$600 per week in addition to the weekly benefit amount he or she receives from certain other UC programs.

The cost of these additional \$600 payments to eligible individuals each week is 100% federally funded. States may not charge employers for any FPUC benefits paid so as to impact the employer's experience rating.

The FPUC program is administered through a voluntary agreement between the state and the Department. Implementation costs and ongoing administrative costs for this program are also 100% federally funded.

This guidance explains the eligibility requirements and other administrative functions associated with the program.

B. Definitions.

This section contains the definitions of terms used throughout this document.

- 1. "Agreement" means the agreement between a state and the Department to administer FPUC. Under the agreement, the state agency makes payments of FPUC as the Department's agent. FPUC payments must be made in accordance with Section 2104 of the CARES Act as interpreted by the Department in these instructions and any other instructions issued by the Department.
- 2. "Applicable state" means, with respect to an individual, the state from which the individual is receiving compensation.
- 3. "Applicable state law" means the unemployment compensation law of the applicable state for an individual.
- 4. "Benefit year" means, with respect to an individual, the benefit year as defined in the applicable state law.
- 5. "Compensation" means cash benefits (including dependents' allowances) payable to individuals with respect to their unemployment. "Compensation" is also referred to as "Unemployment Compensation" or "UC."
- 6. "Department" means the U.S. Department of Labor.
- 7. "Extended compensation" means compensation (including additional compensation and compensation payable pursuant to 5 U.S.C. chapter 85) payable for weeks of unemployment beginning in an extended benefit period to an individual under those provisions of the state law which satisfy the requirements of EUCA. This is also referred to as "Extended Benefits" or "EB".

- 8. "Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation" means the compensation payable under Section 2104 of the CARES Act and is referred to as FPUC.
- 9. "Pandemic Unemployment Assistance" means the compensation payable under Section 2102 of the CARES Act and is referred to as PUA.
- 10. "Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation" means compensation payable under Section 2107 of the CARES Act and is referred to as PEUC.
- 11. "Regular compensation" means compensation payable to an individual under any state UC laws (including compensation payable pursuant to 5 U.S.C. chapter 85), other than extended compensation and state additional compensation. Throughout this document this is referred to as "regular UC."
- 12. "Secretary" means the Secretary of Labor of the United States.
- 13. "State" means the states of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- 14. "State Additional Benefits" means compensation totally financed by a state and payable under a state law by reason of conditions of high unemployment or by reason of other special factors. This is also referred to as "AB."
- 15. "State agency" means the agency of the state which administers its UC law.
- 16. "State law" means the UC law of a state, approved by the Secretary under Section 3304 of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA). (26 U.S.C. §3304(a)).
- 17. "Week" means a week as defined in the applicable state law.
- 18. "Week of Unemployment" means a week of total, part-total, or partial unemployment as defined in the applicable state law, which shall be applied in the same manner to the same extent to claims filed under the requirements of the CARES Act.

C. **Operating Instructions**.

1. <u>Eligibility for FPUC</u>. For an individual to receive FPUC, the applicable state must have a signed agreement with the Department.

FPUC is payable to individuals who are otherwise entitled under state or federal law to receive regular UC for weeks of unemployment (including Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) and Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemembers (UCX)). FPUC is also payable to individuals receiving the following unemployment compensation programs: PEUC, PUA, EB, Short-Time Compensation (STC), Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA), Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), and payments under the Self-Employment Assistance (SEA) program.

A number of state laws include provisions extending the potential duration of benefits during periods of high unemployment for individuals in approved training who exhaust benefits, or for a variety of other reasons.² Although some state laws call these programs "extended benefits," the Department uses the term "additional benefits" (AB) to avoid confusion with the Federal-State EB program. FPUC is not payable to individuals receiving AB payments.

² Reference Table 4-4 of the *Comparison of State Unemployment Insurance Laws* found at <u>https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/statelaws.asp</u>.

 <u>FPUC Eligibility and Relation to Other Types of Benefit Payments</u>. Individuals receive FPUC payments concurrently with payments under those programs identified above. Refer to UIPL 14-20, *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Eocnomic Security (CARES) Act of* 2020 – Summary of Key Unemployment Insurance (UI) Provisions and Guidance Regarding Temporary Emergency State Staffing Flexibility, issued April 2, 2020, for additional information on how FPUC interacts with other programs authorized under the CARES Act.

States that are unable to immediately pay benefits the week following the execution of the agreement with the Department to operate the program must provide retroactive payments to individuals eligible for FPUC for the weeks they would have been entitled.

3. <u>Beginning and Ending Dates of the FPUC Program in a State.</u> Under Section 2104(e) of the CARES Act, FPUC is payable in a state for weeks of unemployment beginning after the date on which the state enters into an agreement with the Department and ending with weeks of unemployment ending on or before July 31, 2020.

Accordingly, in states where the week of unemployment ends on a Saturday, the last week that FPUC is payable is the week ending July 25, 2020. For states where the week of unemployment ends on a Sunday, the last week that FPUC is payable is the week ending July 26, 2020.

- 4. <u>Termination of FPUC Agreement</u>. Either party, upon 30-days written notice, may terminate the FPUC agreement. In the case of termination, the FPUC period will end 30 days from the date the state notifies the Secretary of its election to terminate the FPUC program. No FPUC will be payable for weeks which begin after the date the termination of the agreement is effective. However, FPUC is payable to individuals receiving the benefits under section C.1. for any weeks that end prior to the termination.
- 5. <u>Nonreduction Rule</u>. An agreement will no longer apply and FPUC will not be payable in a state upon the Department's determination that the state's method governing the computation of regular UC has been modified in a manner such that the number of weeks (the maximum benefit entitlement), or the average weekly benefit amount of regular UC, which will be payable during the period of the agreement (determined by disregarding any FPUC amount) will be less than the number of weeks, or the average weekly benefit amount, of regular UC which would otherwise have been payable during such period under the state law in effect on January 1, 2020. "Maximum benefit entitlement" means the amount of regular UC payable to an individual with respect to the individual's benefit year.
- 6. <u>Disregard of FPUC for Purposes of Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance</u> <u>Program (SCHIP)</u>. Under Section 2104(h) of the CARES Act, the monthly equivalent of any FPUC amount paid to an individual must be disregarded when determining income for any purpose under programs established under Titles XIX and Title XXI of the Social Security Act (SSA) (42 U.S.C. §1396 et seq., §1397aa et seq.).

- 7. Record Maintenance and Disposal of Records.
 - a. <u>Record Maintenance</u>. Each state must maintain records during the administration of the FPUC program and will make all such records available for inspection, examination, and audit by such federal officials, employees as the Department may designate, or as may be required by the law. Reference ET Handbook No. 401, *UI Report Handbook* for details.
 - b. <u>Disposal of Records</u>. Each state must maintain records created during the administration of the FPUC program for three years after final action (including appeals or court action) on the payments, or for less than the three-year period if copied by microphotocopy or by an electronic imaging method. At the end of the three-year period, the FPUC records shall be transferred to state accountability under the conditions for the disposal of records that apply to UCFE and UCX records, as explained in Chapter X of ET Handbook No. 391 (1994 Edition) (OMB No. 1205-0179) and Chapter I of ET Handbook No. 384 (1994 Edition) (OMB No. 1205-0176).
- 8. <u>Disclosure of Information</u>. Information in records made and maintained by the state agency while administering the CARES Act must be kept confidential, and information in such records may be disclosed only in the same manner and to the same extent as information with respect to regular UC. This information may be disclosed under provisions of the applicable state law meeting the requirements of 20 C.F.R. Part 603. As provided under 20 C.F.R. Part 603.4(b), the confidentiality requirements do not apply when such information is being provided in the aggregate, provided it cannot be combined with other publicly-available information to reveal any such identifying particulars about an individual or the individual's past or present employer.
- 9. <u>Inviolate Rights to FPUC</u>. Individuals' rights to FPUC must be protected in the same manner and to the same extent as the individuals' rights to regular UC are protected under the applicable state law. Such measures must include protection of individuals' rights to FPUC from waiver, release, assignment, pledge, encumbrance, levy, execution, attachment, and garnishment. In the same manner and to the same extent, individuals must be protected from discrimination and obstruction in regard to seeking, applying for, and receiving FPUC.

D. Processing Payments for FPUC.

1. <u>Notification to Claimants</u>. The state must notify a potentially eligible individual of his or her entitlement to FPUC. Such notification should include both the beginning and ending dates for the FPUC program. As noted above, in states where the week of unemployment ends on a Saturday, the last week that FPUC is payable is the week ending July 25, 2020. For states where the week of unemployment ends on a Sunday, the lsat week that FPUC is payable is the week ending July 26, 2020. States have flexibility in the method of providing this notification. States will decide eligibility for FPUC based on eligibility for the underlying program eligibility; individuals do not have to separately apply for FPUC.

- 2. <u>Applicability of State Law and Underlying Eligibility Requirements</u>. Except where inconsistent with the CARES Act or with the operating instructions promulgated to carry out the CARES Act, all terms and conditions of the state UC law or any federal law (related to the programs listed below) applicable to claims for and payment of regular UC or any of the underlying benefits listed below apply to the payment of FPUC. An individual is not entitled to receive FPUC for a week in which the individual is ineligible for regular UC or the underlying benefit from another federal program. Applicable federal law is cited below.
 - a. UCFE: 5 U.S. Code CHAPTER 85;
 - b. UCX: 5 U.S. Code CHAPTER 85;
 - c. PEUC: Section 2107 of the CARES Act;
 - d. PUA: Section 2102 of the CARES Act;
 - e. EB: Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970 (26 U.S.C. §3304 note);
 - f. STC: Section 3306(v), FUTA (26 U.S.C. §3306(v));
 - g. TRA: Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. §2291 et seq.);
 - h. DUA: Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act (42 U.S.C. §5121 et seq.); or
 - i. SEA: Section 3306(t), FUTA (26 U.S.C. §3306(t)).
- 3. <u>Allowable Methods of Payment</u>. States must issue payments of FPUC as soon as administratively feasible. States have some flexibility in how they issue FPUC payments; states may pay the additional \$600 either:
 - a. as an amount which is paid at the same time and in the same manner as any regular UC otherwise payable for the week involved; or
 - b. at the option of the state, by payments which are made separately from, but on the same weekly basis as, any regular UC otherwise payable.

4. Payment Calculations for FPUC.

Section 2104(b)(1) of the CARES Act requires the additional \$600 FPUC to be paid to individuals "in amounts and to the extent that they would be determined if the State law of the State were applied with respect to any week for which the individual is . . . otherwise entitled under the State law to receive regular compensation." This includes regular UC, PEUC, PUA, EB, STC, TRA, DUA, and SEA.

- a. Determining entitlement to FPUC.
 - i. States will calculate the weekly benefit amount, for the programs outlined above.
 - ii. If the individual is eligible to receive at least one dollar (\$1) of underlying benefits for the claimed week, the claimant will receive the full \$600 FPUC.

- iii. Note: Individuals whose underlying benefit payments are intercepted to pay debts (*e.g.*, overpayments) are eligible for the \$600 FPUC, even if 100% of their weekly benefit amount is intercepted. Benefits intercepted to pay debts are considered to be compensation for the week.
- 5. <u>Child support</u>. Child support obligations must be deducted from FPUC payments in the same manner and to the same extent as these obligations are deducted from regular UC.
- 6. <u>Taxable Income</u>. The \$600 FPUC is taxable. Therefore, states must include FPUC when preparing 1099Gs, and must, consistent with Section 3304(a)(18), FUTA (26 U.S.C. §3304(a)(18)), withhold taxes from the weekly benefit amount and from the \$600 FPUC, when an individual elects to have taxes withheld.

E. Appeals and Hearings.

Section 2104(f)(4) of the CARES Act requires that FPUC determinations are subject to review in the same manner and to the same extent as determinations under the state UC law, and only in that manner and to that extent.

Individuals are automatically eligible for FPUC if they are eligibile for the underlying benefit. Therefore, the only grounds to deny FPUC to an individual is the individual's ineligibility for one of these benefits. If an individual files an appeal on the state's determination to deny an individual FPUC, all documents relevant to the denial of the underlying benefit determination must be transmitted to the appeals division, in addition to the determination documentation for the state's decision to deny FPUC. The appeals division must consider the merits of the state's denial of the underlying benefit when determining eligibility for FPUC payments.

F. Fraud and Overpayments.

1. <u>Fraud</u>. Under Section 2104(f)(1) of the CARES Act, an individual commits fraud if he or she knowingly has made or caused to be made by another, a false statement or representation of a material fact, or knowingly has failed, or caused another to fail, to disclose a material fact, and as a result of such false statement or representation or of such nondisclosure such individual has received an amount of FPUC to which such individual was not entitled.

An individual who has committed fraud and was subsequently disqualified for a week that included a payment of FPUC is therefore ineligible for additional FPUC in accordance with the provisions of the applicable state UC law relating to fraud in connection with a claim for UC and is subject to prosecution under 18 U.S.C. §1001.

Section 2104(f) only provides for an individual being ineligible for future benefits in accordance with the applicable provisions of state UC law, it does not permit the establishment of a penalty on FPUC that was fraudulently obtained, so states may not impose fraud penalty provisions on FPUC payments.

2. <u>Overpayments</u>. An FPUC overpayment occurs when an individual has received an FPUC payment to which he or she is not entitled. If an individual is deemed ineligible for regular compensation in a week and the denial creates an overpayment for the entire weekly benefit amount, the FPUC payment for the week will also be denied. And the FPUC overpayment must also be created.

Section 2104(f)(2) of the CARES Act requires individuals who have received FPUC overpayments to repay these amounts to the state agency, except as provided in the Waiver of Overpayments section below.

- 3. <u>Opportunity for a Hearing</u>. Under 2104(f)(3)(B) of the CARES Act, a state may not require repayment of an FPUC overpayment until it determines that the payment was an overpayment, the individual was provided notice of the determination, the individual had an opportunity for a fair hearing, and the determination is final.
- 4. <u>Waiver of Overpayments</u>. The state has authority to waive repayments of FPUC if the payment was without fault on the part of the individual and such repayment would be contrary to equity and good conscience.
- 5. <u>Recovery Provisions</u>. If the overpayment amount is not subject to waiver, the state agency must recover the amount of FPUC to which an individual was not entitled in accordance with the same procedures as apply to recovery of overpayments of regular UC paid by the state.

FPUC benefits may only be offset from other state and federal UC for three years after the date such individual received the FPUC payment to which he or she was not entitled. After three years, a state may continue to recover FPUC overpayments through means other than benefit offsets, according to state law.

6. <u>Benefit Offsets</u>. Consistent with section 2104(f)(3), a state must recover FPUC overpayments from any additional FPUC payments to which the individual is entitled and from any other UC payments under state or federal law (including PEUC and PUA from the CARES Act).

Additionally, FPUC payments must be reduced to recover overpayments from any other state and federal unemployment benefit programs, if the state has a cross-program offset agreement in place under Section 303(g)(2), SSA (42 U.S.C. §503(g)(2)). A state may not offset more than 50% from the FPUC payment to recover overpayments from other state and federal unemployment benefit programs.

A states has significant flexibility in the way they implement the offset requirement. While a state must attempt to recover the full amount of the overpayment, a state may limit the amount that will be deducted from each payment as noted on page 4 of UIPL No. 05-13, Work Search and Overpayment Offset Provisions Added to Permanent Federal Unemployment Compensation Law by Title II, Subtitle A of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012.

G. Financial Information.

- <u>Accessing FPUC Benefit Funds</u>. Under the CARES Act, each state that has entered into an agreement to pay FPUC will be provided a monthly allotment projected to equal 100% of the estimated amount of FPUC to be paid to individuals by the state under the agreement. A state's drawdown of allotments will be monitored, and monthly amounts will be adjusted as needed. A state will request funds from a general fund account established by the U.S. Treasury to pay all FPUC amounts attributable to all applicable claim types. All requests will go through the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system. Drawdown requests must adhere to the funding mechanism stipulated in the Treasury-State Agreement executed under the Cash Management Improvement Act of 1990. Requests will be funded in the same manner as all ASAP transactions elected by the states (Credit Gateway FEDWIRE or ACH to the state benefit payment account).
- 2. <u>FPUC Administrative Costs</u>. On-going FPUC administrative costs will be reimbursed through the quarterly Ul-3 report (OMB No. 1205-0132).

H. <u>Reporting Instructions.</u>

- 1. <u>ETA 2112</u>. (OMB No. 1205-0154). Transactions involving FPUC must be reported in the aggregate on the electronic ETA 2112 report. Information reflecting FPUC transactions must be reported as follows:
 - (1) **Line 23b.** Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation. Report on line 23b column F the amount of FPUC funds transferred from the general fund account to the state benefit payment account.
 - (2) **Line 42b.** Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation. Report on line 42b column F the net amount of FPUC paid.

Transactions should not be reported in column E, Unemployment Trust Fund Account.

- 2. <u>ETA 5159</u>. (OMB No. 1205-0010). Payment amounts reported by states on the ETA 5159 report, for any tier of benefits, should not include the supplemental FPUC payments.
 - (1) Line 302 on all ETA 5159 reports. Amounts Paid. Report amounts of UC paid but do not include the supplemental FPUC payments.
 - (2) Line 402 on all ETA 5159 reports. Amounts Paid. Report amounts of UC paid but do not include the supplemental FPUC payments.
- 3. <u>UI-3</u>. (OMB No. 1205-0132). Include on line 26 (labeled "'Other") any on-going FPUC administrative costs. This amount must identified in the UI-3 comments section as "FPUC admin = \$\$\$."

4. <u>ETA 227</u>. (OMB No. 1205-0173). States will report FPUC overpayments (established and recovered) in the comments section of the ETA 227 report as "FPUC Est. = \$\$\$" and "FPUC Coll. = \$\$\$."

<u>Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Approval</u>. Section 2116(a), Division B of Title II of the CARES Act provides that "Chapter 35 of Title 44, United States Codes, (commonly referred to as the "Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995"), shall not apply to the provisions of, and the amendments made by, this subtitle." As the OMB approval process is waived for these reporting instructions, these instructions are considered final.

General Provisions for Administering the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) Program

CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES

- 1. <u>Compliance with Federal Requirements</u>. States must comply with the provisions contained in the states' Agreements with the Department to administer FPUC and with all applicable FPUC funding instruments. States must perform such duties and functions in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 C.F.R. Part 200 and 2 C.F.R. 2900 applicable to all grants and cooperative agreements. Additionally, the Department's administrative requirements for grants and cooperative agreements at 29 C.F.R. Parts 31, 32, 38, and 98 apply to grant funds provided for these activities.
- 2. <u>Prohibition on Subsidization of Forced or Indentured Child Labor</u>. States, consistent with Section 103 of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, Public Law 116-94, and in accordance with Executive Order No. 13126, must not obligate or expend funds made available to administer FPUC for the procurement of goods, mined, produced, manufactured, or harvested or services rendered, whole or in part, by forced or indentured child labor in industries and host countries already identified by the U.S. Department of Labor prior to enactment of the Department's 2008 appropriation.
- 3. Salary and Bonus Pay Limitations. States, in compliance with Section 101 of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, Public Law 116-94, must not use funds provided for FPUC administration to pay the salary and bonuses of an individual, either as direct costs or indirect costs, at a rate in excess of Executive Level II, except as provided for under Section 101 of Public Law 109-149. This limitation shall not apply to vendors providing goods and services as defined in 2 C.F.R. 200, Subpart F Audit Requirements. Where states are recipients of such funds, states may establish a lower limit for salaries and bonuses of those receiving salaries and bonuses from sub recipients of such funds, taking into account FPUC, including the relative cost-of-living in the state, the compensation levels for comparable state or local government employees, and the size of the organizations that administer Federal programs involved including Employment and Training Administration programs. *See* Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 5-06 for further clarification. The incurrence of costs and receiving reimbursement for these costs under this award certifies that the Grantee has read the above condition and is in compliance.
- 4. <u>Veterans' Priority Provisions</u>. This program, funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, is subject to the provisions of the "Jobs for Veterans Act" (JVA), Public Law 107-288 (38 U.S.C §4215). The JVA provides priority of service to veterans and spouses of certain veterans for the receipt of employment, training, and placement services. The Veterans' priority is implemented by 20 C.F.R. Part 1010 (73 Fed. Reg. 78132, Sept. 19, 2008). Please note that to obtain priority service a veteran must meet the program's eligibility requirements. TEGL No. 10-09 (November 10, 2009) provided general guidance on the scope of the veterans priority statute and its effect on current employment and training programs. In addition to TEGL 10-

09, a series of questions and answers related to priority of service is posted at <u>https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=2816</u> for fifteen (15) programs administered by ETA.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) State Plan requires states to describe the policies and strategies in place to ensure, pursuant to the JVA, that priority of service is provided to veterans (and certain spouses) who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for all employment and training programs funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and administered by ETA. See *Required Elements for Submission of the Unified or Combined State Plan and Plan Modifications under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act*. OMB Control No. 1205-0522. In addition, the states were required to provide assurances that they will comply with the Veterans' Priority Provisions established by the JVA. States must adhere to JVA requirements, as interpreted by the Department, in administering FPUC.

- <u>Certifications and Assurances</u>. In administering FPUC, states must fully comply with the State Quality Service Plan (SQSP) assurances. These SQSP assurances are detailed in Chapter 1, Part VIII of the "Unemployment Insurance State Quality Service Plan (SQSP) Assurances," ET Handbook No. 336 (18th Edition, Change 4).
 - A. Assurance of Equal Opportunity (EO).
 - **B.** Assurance of Administrative Requirements and Allowable Cost Standards.
 - C. Assurance of Management Systems, Reporting, and Recordkeeping.
 - D. Assurance of Program Quality.
 - E. Assurance on Use of Unobligated Funds.
 - F. Assurance of Prohibition of Lobbying Costs.
 - G. Drug-Free Workplace.
 - H. Assurance of Contingency Planning.
 - I. Assurance of Conformity and Compliance.
 - J. Assurance of Automated Information Systems Security.
 - K. Assurance of Confidentiality.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB), SF 424 B *Assurances-Non- Construction Programs*, signed and submitted by each state with its State Quality Service Plan annual submission, also apply.

Statutory Language of Section 2104 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020

SEC. 2104. EMERGENCY INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS.

(a) Federal-State Agreements.--Any State which desires to do so may enter into and participate in an agreement under this section with the Secretary of Labor (in this section referred to as the "Secretary"). Any State which is a party to an agreement under this section may, upon providing 30 days' written notice to the Secretary, terminate such agreement.

(b) Provisions of Agreement.--

(1) Federal pandemic unemployment compensation.--Any agreement under this section shall provide that the State agency of the State will make payments of regular compensation to individuals in amounts and to the extent that they would be determined if the State law of the State were applied, with respect to any week for which the individual is (disregarding this section) otherwise entitled under the State law to receive regular compensation, as if such State law had been modified in a manner such that the amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable for any week shall be equal to--

(A) the amount determined under the State law (before the application of this paragraph), plus

(B) an additional amount of \$600 (in this section referred to as "Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation").

(2) Allowable methods of payment.--Any Federal Pandemic

Unemployment Compensation provided for in accordance with paragraph (1) shall be payable either--

(A) as an amount which is paid at the same time and in the same manner as any regular compensation otherwise payable for the week involved; or

(B) at the option of the State, by payments which are made separately from, but on the same weekly basis as, any regular compensation otherwise payable.

(c) Nonreduction Rule .--

(1) In general.--An agreement under this section shall not apply (or shall cease to apply) with respect to a State upon a determination by the Secretary that the method governing the computation of regular compensation under the State law of that State has been modified in a manner such that the number of weeks (the maximum benefit entitlement), or the average weekly benefit amount, of regular compensation which will be payable during the period of the agreement (determined disregarding any Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation) will be less than the number of weeks, or the average weekly benefit amount, of the average weekly benefit amount of regular compensation which would otherwise have been payable during such period under the State law, as in effect on January 1, 2020.

(2) Maximum benefit entitlement.--In paragraph (1), the term "maximum benefit entitlement" means the amount of regular unemployment compensation payable to an individual with respect to the individual's benefit year.

(d) Payments to States.--

(1) In general.--

(A) Full reimbursement.--There shall be paid to each State which has entered into an

agreement under this section an amount equal to 100 percent of--

(i) the total amount of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation paid to individuals by the State pursuant to such agreement; and

(ii) any additional administrative expenses incurred by the State by reason of such agreement (as determined by the Secretary).

(B) Terms of payments.--Sums payable to any State by reason of such State's having an agreement under this section shall be payable, either in advance or by way of reimbursement (as determined by the Secretary), in such amounts as the Secretary estimates the State will be entitled to receive under this section for each calendar month, reduced or increased, as the case may be, by any amount by which the Secretary finds that his estimates for any prior calendar month were greater or less than the amounts which should have been paid to the State. Such estimates may be made on the basis of such statistical, sampling, or other method as may be agreed upon by the Secretary and the State agency of the State involved.

(2) Certifications.--The Secretary shall from time to time certify to the Secretary of the Treasury for payment to each State the sums payable to such State under this section.

(3) Appropriation.--There are appropriated from the general fund of the Treasury, without fiscal year limitation, such sums as may be necessary for purposes of this subsection.

(e) Applicability.--An agreement entered into under this section shall apply to weeks of unemployment--

(1) beginning after the date on which such agreement is entered into; and

(2) ending on or before July 31, 2020.

(f) Fraud and Overpayments .--

(1) In general.--If an individual knowingly has made, or caused to be made by another, a false statement or representation of a material fact, or knowingly has failed, or caused another to fail, to disclose a material fact, and as a result of such false statement or representation or of such nondisclosure such individual has received an amount of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to which such individual was not entitled, such individual--

(A) shall be ineligible for further Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation in accordance with the provisions of the applicable State unemployment compensation law relating to fraud in connection with a claim for unemployment compensation; and

(B) shall be subject to prosecution under section 1001 of title 18, United States Code.

(2) Repayment.--In the case of individuals who have received amounts of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to which they were not entitled, the State shall require such individuals to repay the amounts of such Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to the State agency, except that the State agency may waive such repayment if it determines that--

(A) the payment of such Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation was without fault on the part of any such individual; and

(B) such repayment would be contrary to equity and good conscience.

(3) Recovery by state agency.--

(A) In general.--The State agency shall recover the amount to be repaid, or any part thereof, by deductions from any Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation payable to such individual or from any unemployment compensation payable to such individual under any State or Federal unemployment compensation law administered by the State agency or under any other State or Federal law administered by the State agency which provides for the payment of any assistance or allowance with respect to any week of unemployment, during the 3-year period after the date such individuals received the payment of the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to which they were not entitled, in accordance with the same procedures apply to the recovery of overpayments of regular unemployment benefits paid by the State.

(B) Opportunity for hearing.--No repayment shall be required, and no deduction shall be made, until a determination has been made, notice thereof and an opportunity for a fair hearing has been given to the individual, and the determination has become final.

(4) Review.--Any determination by a State agency under this section shall be subject to review in the same manner and to the same extent as determinations under the State unemployment compensation law, and only in that manner and to that extent.

(g) Application to Other Unemployment Benefits.--Each agreement under this section shall include provisions to provide that the purposes of the preceding provisions of this section shall be applied with respect to unemployment benefits described in subsection (i)(2) to the same extent and in the same manner as if those benefits were regular compensation.

(h) Disregard of Additional Compensation for Purposes of Medicaid and CHIP.--The monthly equivalent of any Federal pandemic unemployment compensation paid to an individual under this section shall be disregarded when determining income for any purpose under the programs established under titles XIX and title XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq., 1397aa et seq.).

(i) Definitions.--For purposes of this section--

(1) the terms "compensation", "regular compensation", benefit year", "State", "State agency", "State law", and "week" have the respective meanings given such terms under section 205 of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note); and

(2) any reference to unemployment benefits described in this paragraph shall be considered to refer to--

(A) extended compensation (as defined by section 205 of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970);

(B) regular compensation (as defined by section 85(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) provided under any program administered by a State under an agreement with the Secretary;

(C) pandemic unemployment assistance under section 2102; and

(D) pandemic emergency unemployment compensation under section 2107.

Attachment IV to UIPL No. 15-20

Supplemental Budget Request (SBR) Application

Instructions: States must complete the application using the suggested format and instructions below for the projects/activities for which the state is seeking funding. This application is to be combined with a completed SF-424 and an SF-424A covering all projects/activities.

Unemployment Insurance Supplemental Budget Request Abstract

State Name:

Total Funds Requested for All Projects:

Name, Title, and Address of Grant Notification Contact (*Typically the State Workforce Agency Administrator*) Name: Title: Address:

Name, E-Mail Address, and Phone Number of SBR Project or Fiscal Manager Name: E-Mail Address:

Telephone Number:

Provide the following information for each project (*add additional rows as needed*):

Project Name	Total Cost of Project	Proposed Completion Date			

Project Description	
Project Timeline	

Description of Costs					
State Agency Staff Costs:					
Type of Position	Total Hours		Cost Per Hour		Total
Contract Staff Costs:					
Type of Position	Total Hours		Cost Per Hour		Total
Hardware, Software a	and Tele	ecommunication	ns Equipment:		
Item Description	Cost Per Item Quantity		Quantity		Total
Other Costs:					
Item	Cost		Explan		nation

SECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Name of Project: Provide the name of the proposed project.

<u>Amount of Funding Request for this Project</u>: Provide the total amount of funds requested in this individual project.

<u>State Contact</u>: Provide name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the individual who can answer any questions relating to the proposal.

<u>Project Description</u>: Provide a brief description of the projects/activities for which the state seeking funding.

Project Timeline: Provide a list of the dates and the milestones for this project.

Description of Costs: Provide an explanation of all costs included in the project.

- **State Agency Staff Costs:** Use the table format provided in this attachment to request state staff to support project implementation.
- **Contract Staff Costs:** Use the table format provided in this attachment to request contract staff to support project implementation.
- Hardware, Software, and Telecommunications Equipment: Provide an itemized list of hardware, software, and telecommunications equipment including the cost per item and the number of each item requested. A description of each item must provide any information needed to identify the specific item and a description of the size and capacity of each item if applicable.
- **Other:** Identify each item of cost not covered elsewhere and provide the expected cost per item. The need for each item must be explained.

Instructions for Completing the SF-424 and SF-424A

I. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

Use the current version of the form for submission. Expired forms will not be accepted. SF-424, Expiration Date 12/31/2022, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control No. 4040-0004 (Grants.gov). http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html.

Section # 8, APPLICANT INFORMATION:

- Legal Name: The legal name must match the name submitted with the System for Award Management (SAM). Please refer to instructions at <u>https://www.sam.gov.</u>
- Employer/Tax Identification Number (EIN/TIN) : Input your correct 9-digit EIN and ensure that it is recorded within SAM.
- Organizational DUNS: All applicants for Federal grant and funding opportunities are required to have a 9-digit Data Universal Numbering System (D-U-N-S®) number, and must supply their D-U-N-S® number on the SF-424. Please ensure that your state is registered with the SAM. Instructions for registering with SAM can be found at https://www.sam.gov. Additionally, the state must maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application under consideration. To remain registered in the SAM database after the initial registration, there is a requirement to review and update the registration at least every 12 months from the date of initial registration or subsequently update the information in the SAM database to ensure it is current, accurate, and complete. Failure to register with SAM and maintain an active account will result in a rejection of your submission.
- Address: Input your complete address including Zipcode+4; Example: 20110-831. For lookup, use link at <u>https://tools.usps.com/go/ZipLookupAction!input.action</u>.
- Organizational Unit: Input appropriate Department Name and Division Name, if applicable.
- Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application. Provide complete and accurate contact information including telephone number and email address for the point of contact.

Section # 9, Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type: Input "State Government".

Section # 10, Name of the Federal Agency: Input "Employment and Training Administration".

Section # 11, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: Input "17.225"; CFDA Title: Input "Unemployment Insurance".

Section # 12, Funding Opportunity Number and Title: Input "UIPL No. 15-20, Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation Implementation Administrative Grants".

Section # 13, Competition Identification Number: Leave Blank.

Section # 14, Areas Affected by Project: Input the place of performance for the project implementation; Example "NY" for New York.

Section # 15, Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project: Input Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation Implementation Administrative Grants.

Section # 16, Congressional Districts of:

- a. Applicant: Input the Congressional District of your home office. For lookup, use link at <u>www.house.gov</u> with Zipcode + 4.
- b. Program/Project: Input the Congressional District where the project work is performed. If it's the same place as your home office, input the congressional district for your home office. For lookup, use link at <u>www.house.gov</u> with Zipcode+4.

Section # 17, Proposed Project:

- a. Start Date: Input a valid start date for the project (earliest start date will be March 27, 2020);
- b. End Date: Input a valid end date for the project.

Section # 18, Estimated Funding (\$): Input the estimated funding requested. Ensure that the funding requested matches the TOTALS in Section B – Budget Categories of the SF-424A.

Section #s 19 – 20: Complete as per instructions for Form SF-424.

Section # 21, Authorized Representative: Please select the "I AGREE" check box and provide complete information for your authorized signatory including contact information such as telephone number and email address. If your Authorized Representative has changed from your previous application submission for this program, please include a letter from a higher level leadership authorizing the new signatory for the application submission.

Remember to get the SF-424 signed and dated by the Authorized representative.

II. <u>Budget Information -Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)</u>

Use the current version of the form for the submission. Expired forms will not be accepted. SF 424A, Expiration Date 02/28/2022, OMB Control No. 4040-0006 <u>https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/readonly/SF424A-V1.0.pdf.</u>

Section B – Budget Categories: Ensure that TOTALS in Section 6, Object Class Categories matches the Estimated Funding requested in the SF-424.