



NASWA Unemployment Insurance Committee

NASWA Unemployment Insurance (UI) Committee

February 18, 2022: UI Committee Call

March 11, 2022: Joint Technology & UI Committee Call

DRAFT Meetings Notes

February 18, 2022 – NASWA Unemployment Insurance Committee Call

Welcome - Jamie Suber (SC), Chair; Patsy Westcott (AK), Vice-Chair

- Chair Jamie Suber (SC) and Vice-Chair Patsy Westcott (AK) welcomed 68 participants to the call.

U.S. Department of Labor Update - Jim Garner, USDOL; Michelle Beebe, USDOL

- USDOL plans to provide a blanket extension for the CARES Act Administrative Grants Period of Performance that ends on June 30, 2022. More information will be shared soon.
- USDOL Webinar on Overpayment Waiver Guidance will take place on February 23. Michelle Beebe encouraged members to submit questions in advance of the webinar.
- With a focus on equity, preliminary conversations around collecting additional demographic data were being discussed at USDOL.
- Office of Management & Budget released the improper payment rates for all of government including the unemployment insurance program with an improper payment rate of 18.71% for 2021. See [paymentaccuracy.gov](https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/unemployment-insurance-payment-accuracy) for additional information. State improper payment rates are posted to the USDOL website:
<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/unemployment-insurance-payment-accuracy>
- USDOL is required to provide an improper payment estimate for the PUA program. USDOL is developing a methodology to evaluate the PUA program that minimal impacts states.
- Congress extended the continuing resolution through March 11, 2022. The President's Budget proposes to update factors for administrative funding and increases the funding for the RESEA program and ICON modernization.
- RESEA State Plans for FY22 are due on March 7, 2022. Carryover fund limitations were waived for FY21 and FY22. The carryover limitation will be 60% for FY23 and resume at the 30% formula funding level for FY24.
 - A member raised concern about the RESEA funding structure. Since only 10% of the funding can be used on the evaluation component, states with lower funding are at a disadvantage for the additional funding based on the outcome metrics.
- USDOL Tiger Team assess and make recommendations to states on how to better detect and prevent fraud, promote equitable access, and ensure timely delivery of benefits.
 - USDOL extended the timeframe for states to indicate interest in the Tiger Team initiative from March 30, 2022 to September 30, 2022.
- As of the meeting, 49 states had submitted equity grants – [UIPL 23-21](#).
- The Unemployment Insurance Navigator Grants are available to help states work with community and worker organizations to improve their UI systems – [UIPL 11-22](#).
- Members discussed the limited bandwidth to work on multiple grants with similar timelines.
- Office of Inspector General has 14 active audits for the UI program. OIG plans to expand the number of states for field work from 6 to 10 states.

- Upcoming Guidance: Change to UIPL 16-21 - Identity Verification; UIPL on work search – formal warnings.
- [Comparison of State UI Laws](#) is available on the USDOL website. The Significant Provisions of State Unemployment Insurance Laws effective January 2022 will be published soon.

Committee Business

- **Approval of December Minutes:** Chair Jamie Suber asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the NASWA UI Committee meeting in December 2021. Patsy Westcott (AK) moved to approve. The Committee approved the minutes by consensus.
- **Policy Subcommittee Update- Chair Cliff Napier (AK)**
 - Cliff reviewed the draft proposed legislative priorities proposed by the Policy Subcommittee for 2022. Members discussed challenges and implication of waiver implementation.
 - In early February, the Policy Subcommittee met with USDOL to provide input on the overpayment waivers prior to the release the UIPL.
 - Committee members were encouraged to join the Policy Subcommittee.
- **Interstate Benefits Subcommittee Update – Chair Kathy Catanzaro (RI)**
 - *New Vice-Chair Monnikka Madison (DC):* A previous member of the Subcommittee for many years, Monnikka Madison is the new Vice-Chair of the IB Subcommittee. As the Deputy Director for the Bureau of Economic Stability and Benefits within the D.C. Department of Employment Services (DOES), Monnikka has served as a primary architect in the planning, development and administration of Washington D.C.'s recently launched, high-profile Paid Family Leave program and the long-standing Unemployment Insurance program.
 - The Interstate Benefits Subcommittee met on December 15 and January 12 for virtual meetings. The Subcommittee heard updates from USDOL and NASWA ICON team. The remaining part of the meetings were dedicated to workgroup breakout sessions and planning for the 2022 Interstate and Federal Programs Training Conference.
 - The Subcommittee has started to plan for the 2022 Interstate Benefits and Federal Programs Training Conference on May 10-12, 2022 in Orlando, Florida. This conference is for state employees who work with interstate benefits and/or federal unemployment insurance benefit programs - Combined Wage Claim (CWC) operations and administering the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) and the Unemployment Compensation for Ex-service members (UCX) programs. Over the next couple months, the Subcommittee will work closely with UI ICON Team to develop content for the conference workshops and plenary sessions. The U.S. Department of Labor will be providing reimbursement for travel costs related to the training up to \$3,000 per state. Registration for the May Training Conference is available on the NASWA website.
- **Next In-Person Committee Meeting:** May 10, 2022 in Orlando, FL.

State Roundtable. The call concluded with a peer-to-peer discussion.

March 11, 2022 - Joint NASWA Technology Committee and UI Committee Call

NASWA's Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Technology Committees held a joint meeting on March 11, 2022 with 102 participants in attendance. Jamie Suber (SC), Chair of the UI Committee, and Liz Carver (UT), Chair of the Technology Committee, started the meeting with a warm welcome and reviewed the agenda.

Participants were excited about several state promising practices shared virtually. Kierston Howard (CO), Julie Primo (CO), and Tim Cummins (NM) described how their respective states utilize robots to automate components of the UI Process. Richard Pierce (LA) explained how his state leverages technology to automate income verification, especially for non-covered employees. Members of NASWA's UI State Information Data Exchange System (SIDES) Operations Committee also updated the group on the modernization process. The meeting closed with a roundtable discussion led by the committee chairs.

The Unemployment Insurance Committee will meet next in person in [Orlando, Florida, on May 10th](#), and the Technology Committee will meet next in [Seattle, Washington, June 8-9th](#). Registration is available on the [NASWA website](#).

The Joint Session was recorded for NASWA members only. The Zoom recording link and estimated times for each segment are provided below.

Recording Link: Click Here	
00:05:46	SIDES Update
00:25:17	Colorado – Robotic Process Automation
01:02:58	New Mexico – Robotic Process Automation
01:16:51	Louisiana – Income Verification