

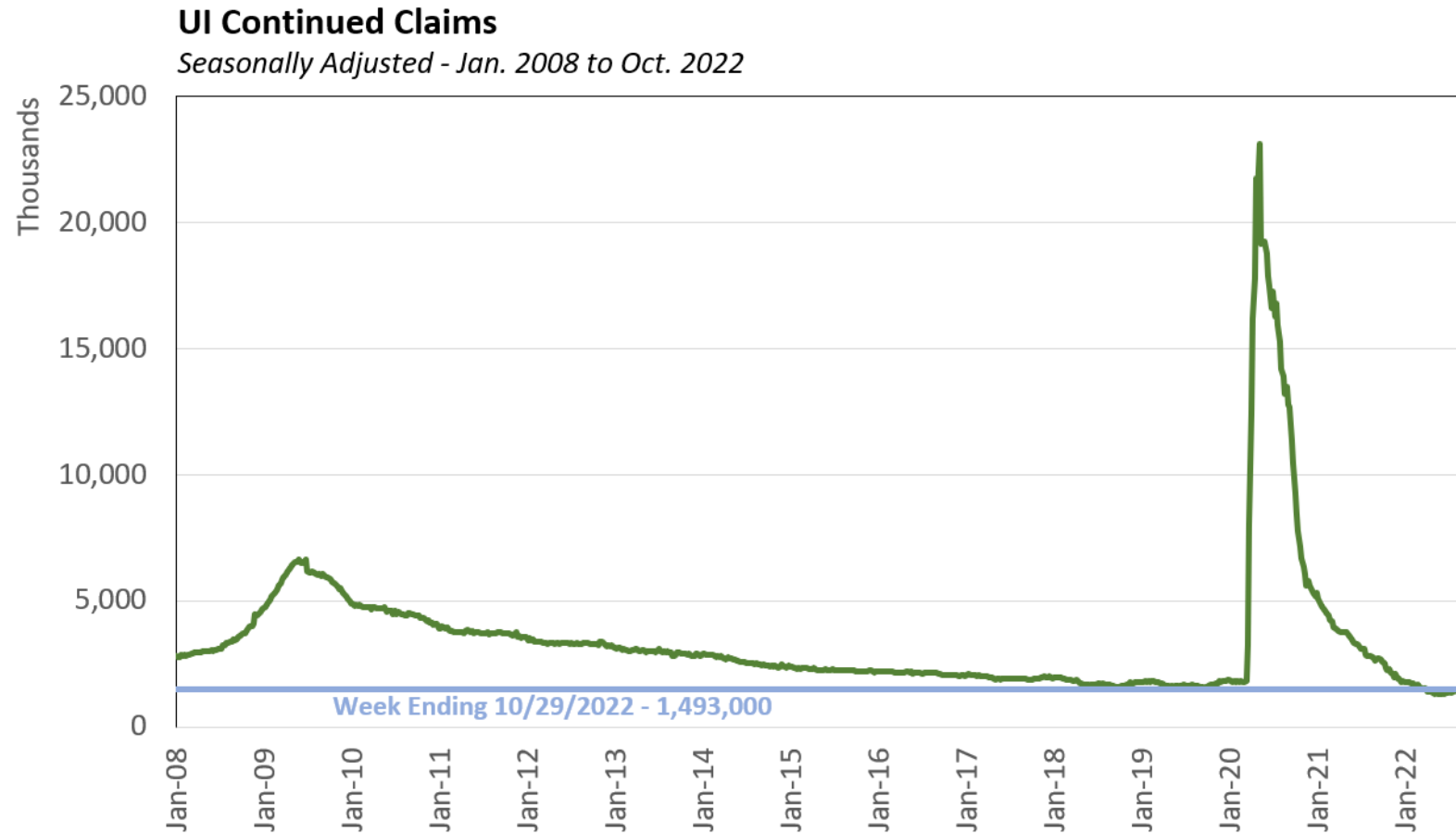
Opportunities to Advance State UI Programs

Secretaries' Innovation Group

Washington, D.C.

November 16, 2022

Perspective: The last few years



Wrapping up CARES Act UC Programs

- Addressing outstanding activities, such as:
 - Working through backlogs;
 - Addressing issues identified in ETA Monitoring Reviews;
 - Applying expanded eligibility under UIPL No. [16-20, Change 5](#);
 - Checking for UI eligibility of individuals that were paid PEUC and PUA;
 - State reporting; and
 - Overpayments, including the establishment, collection, and waiving recovery (where appropriate) (UIPL Nos. [23-20](#) and [20-21, Change 1](#))
- Funding opportunity to resolve outstanding items from the expired CARES Act programs, including reporting and detection/recovery of overpayments (UIPL No. [28-20, Change 4](#))
- PUA SBR opportunity for additional administrative costs (UIPL No. [16-20, Change 7](#)) – **deadline to apply 01/06/23**

National Priorities for the UI Program

- FY 23 State Quality Service Plan (SQSP) (UIPL No. [17-22](#))
 - 1) Rebuilding and improving program performance
 - 2) Improving timely delivery of benefit payments and the reduction of adjudication and appeals backlogs
 - 3) Ensuring equitable access
 - 4) Supporting reemployment of claimants through RESEA, STC, robust work search activities, and other targeted initiatives
 - 5) Combatting fraud; strengthening ID verification; improving prevention, detection, and recovery of improper and fraudulent payments; reducing the improper payment rate
 - 6) Addressing worker misclassification
 - 7) Ensuring accurate and complete filing and reporting of ETA required reports
- Continued implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

- Section 9032 of ARPA created Section 2118 of the CARES Act
- Congress provided \$2.0 billion for the UI program
- Statutory Goals:
 1. Detecting and preventing fraud;
 2. Promoting equity; and
 3. Ensuring the timely payment of benefits

ARPA Activity: Grants to States

- Fraud Prevention Grants
 - Up to \$140 M available (UIPL No. [22-21](#))
 - Awarded \$134 M to 50 states and territories
- Equity Grants
 - Up to \$260 M available (UIPL No. [23-21](#) and its changes)
 - Awarded \$157 M to 31 states (as of November 10, 2022)
 - [Summary of approved grants](#) available on OUI website
- UI Navigator Program Grants
 - Awarded over \$18 M to seven states (UIPL No. [11-22](#))

ARPA Activity: Tiger Teams

- Multidisciplinary teams engaging with states to analyze state UC systems and process challenges. Focus on “quick wins” (*i.e.*, 6-9 months)
- [Summary of cohort trends](#) available on OUI website
 - **Equity and Accessibility:** Plain Language, Standardized Translation, Accessibility Metrics
 - **Timeliness and Backlog:** Process Mapping, Dynamic Fact-Finding and Robotic Process Automation
 - **Fraud Prevention and Detection:** Identity Proofing, Risk Analytics, Integrity Data Hub Integration
- Up to \$200 million available in grants to support implementation of the negotiated recommendations (UIPL No. [02-22](#) and its changes)
- Engaged with 24 states in the first year

ARPA Activity: IT Modernization

- Reference [UI Modernization](#) website
- TEN No. [16-21](#)
 - \$600,000 to two states for initial Claimant Experience Pilots
 - USDOL will discuss scope, timing, resource commitment, project expectations, and funding opportunities for states interested in participating in future opportunities.

Services	References	Support
Value USDOL provides directly to states as part of a centralized approach to UI modernization	Artifacts and resources USDOL develops to inform state-driven modernization efforts	Financial and technical assistance USDOL provides to states to both incentivize and support high value changes

RESEA as permanent program

- Permanently codified at Section 306 of the Social Security Act
- Statutory Goals:
 1. To improve employment outcomes of UC recipients and reduce the average duration of UC receipt through employment;
 2. To strengthen program integrity and reduce improper UC payments through the detection and prevention of such payments to ineligible individuals;
 3. To promote the alignment with the broader vision of WIOA of increased program integration and service delivery for job seekers, including UC claimants; and
 4. To establish reemployment services and eligibility assessments as an entry point for UC claimants into other workforce system partner programs.

RESEA as permanent program

FY 2022

(UIPL No. [10-22](#))

- ▶ Appropriation is \$250 million
- ▶ Cap on administrative spending gone
- ▶ Carry-over limit suspended
- ▶ Notice to Congress on redistributing unused funds to other states
- ▶ Distribution:
 - ▶ 89% base (\$222.5 m)
 - ▶ 10% Outcome Payments (\$25 m) (to be made March 2023)
 - ▶ 1% percent TA (\$2.5 m)

FY 2023

(UIPL forthcoming)

- ▶ Requested Level: \$375 million
- ▶ States must spend at least 25% of funds on evidenced-based strategies.
- ▶ Carry-over of FY 22 funds limited to 60%. (After FY 23, back to 30%)
- ▶ States need to continue ramping up and hire staff to expand use of this program
- ▶ Economy is recovering and RESEA has a role to play

Short-Time Compensation (STC)

- *Lay-off aversion program: Preserves employees' jobs and employers' trained workforces during a disruption to firms' regular business activity by reducing hours of work for an entire group of affected employees, rather than by laying off some employees while others continue to work full time.*
- Up to \$100 million for grants to implement or improve administration of an STC program and for promotion of the program and enrollment of employers (UIPL No. [22-20](#)) – **deadline to apply 12/31/23**
- Reference the UIPL No. 22-12 series, including for model legislative language
- Additional resources: <https://stc.workforcegps.org/>

Contact Information



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Other Activities

- [Spring 2022 USDOL Regulatory Agenda](#)
 - Considering comprehensive updates to the regulation found at 20 C.F.R. Part 603 (pre-rule stage)
 - Considering an update that would incorporate a requirement for states to provide ongoing access for USDOL's OIG to state UC data
 - Considering addressing several other items that states and stakeholders have raised over the years, including addressing questions around sharing information across the workforce system (including with local workforce boards), the permissibility of sharing information with federally-recognized Indian tribes, data warehousing, and the use of contractors/subcontractors.
 - Existing regulation took effect in 2006 and underwent minor updates in 2016 in response to WIOA
 - Stakeholders include state agencies, state and local workforce boards, worker advocates, employer advocates, and private sector entities (e.g., research institutions and third-party vendors).
 - Anticipate publishing a Request for Information (RFI) in November/December 2022

For Reference

- [UI Directors' Guide](#)
- [Federal-State Partnership Paper](#)
- [Division of Legislation Publications](#)
 - Comparison of State UI Laws
 - Significant Provisions of State UI Laws
 - Report on State Legislation
- [Tax Measures Report](#)
- RESEA Resources
 - <https://rc.workforcegps.org/>
 - <https://rc.workforcegps.org/resources/RESEA>
- ARPA Resources
 - <https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/arpa/>
 - <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/ui-modernization>
 - https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/pdf/TigerTeamCohortTrendsJune_2022.pdf
 - https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/pdf/AIR_ARPA_StateEquityGrantsSummaryMemo_Final.pdf
- STC Resources
 - <https://stc.workforcegps.org/>
 - STC Model State Legislation guide
https://stc.workforcegps.org/resources/2020/12/17/19/10/STC_Model_Legislation