

Online Appendix of Survey Responses

“Aid and Encouragement: Does a Letter Increase Enrollment Among UI Recipients?”

Between May 31, 2013 and December 31, 2013 we contacted the workforce agency of all 50 states and the District of Columbia with a request for information about each agency’s participation in the Pell letter initiative outlined in “Aid and Encouragement: Does a Letter Increase Enrollment Among UI Recipients?”. Initially, we e-mailed this survey to the commissioner (or equivalent) of each state’s workforce agency as well as the analogous leader of related state agencies (e.g., the Department of Labor). For states that did not respond to our initial request, we sent several additional e-mail requests. We followed this with a paper mailing containing hard copies of the survey and pre-paid addressed return envelopes. We followed this with phone calls to the relevant state contacts where possible to encourage survey response. For the states remaining at this point, we submitted public record and Freedom of Information Act requests where possible.

In total, 46 states responded to the survey. We have collected these responses and the associated Pell letters below (the letters come before the survey responses where available).¹ In a separate survey, an additional three states indicated that they had not sent a Pell letter and had no intention of doing so (NASWA 2010). Indiana’s response was inconclusive and we have been unable to obtain a response from Tennessee.

¹ While 41 states indicated that they sent a letter, only 29 sent copies of their letter with their response.

Barr and Turner "Understanding Enrollment Responses Among UI Recipients"
University of Virginia
Monroe Hall
McCormick Rd, Room 237
Charlottesville, VA 22903

As you may know, the Department of Labor issued guidance on May 8, 2009:

"To strongly encourage states to: (1) broaden their definition of approved training for Unemployment Insurance (UI) beneficiaries during economic downturns, (2) notify UI beneficiaries of their potential eligibility for Pell Grants and other student aid, and (3) help individuals apply for Pell Grants through One-Stop Career Centers."²

Did Alabama send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy?

If YES:

Did not send a letter. See enclosed copy of AL.

a. On what date did Alabama first send this letter?

U.C. law.

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients

New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter?

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time

Repeated at

weekly

monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes

No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

Please provide comments about whether the initiative was successful or not:

RECEIVED

JUN 14 2013

AL Dept. of Labor
Commissioner

² <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL21-08acc.pdf>

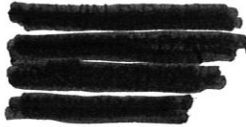
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
AK DEPT OF LABOR - ETTU
PO BOX 115509
JUNEAU AK 99811
Phone: 907-465-4532 Fax: 907-465-8753

*This is Important Information regarding your
Unemployment Insurance Claim*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Date issued: 05/31/2013 Date Mailed: 06/03/2013
37790061

000001



AK 99508

Unemployed workers receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits are now eligible for special consideration for federal student aid. Studies have shown that workers with more education and training have more secure jobs and higher wages.

It is easy to apply for financial aid and to find training providers. The United States Departments of Education and Labor have created a single Web site, www.opportunity.gov, where you can find information, including links to other helpful Web sites. If you are interested in pursuing training opportunities, here are some things to consider:

Decide what type of training is available that best meets your reemployment needs. You can contact your local career one-stop to get started. For training information at the national level, visit www.careeronestop.org.

If you are a UI claimant residing in Alaska, there are many employment and training services available to you through the Alaska Job Center Network (AJCN). You can visit one of the 23 statewide locations, go online at www.jobs.alaska.gov or call the toll-free number 1-877-724-2539. The Alaska Labor Exchange System (ALEXsys), our online job bank, is also available at the above Web site. ALEXsys allows you to view jobs posted by employers throughout the state. If you are residing outside Alaska, please visit a career one-stop in your area.

Academic and vocational colleges also provide training information. They can help you apply for a federal Pell Grant, scholarship or other federal financial aid. A Pell Grant can be a significant resource as it can cover up to \$5,350 in training expenses. Pell Grants are accepted at nearly all universities, community colleges, and many trade and technical schools.

A Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or by calling the toll-free number 1-800-433-3243.

According to Alaska Statute 23.20.382, you may be eligible to continue collecting UI benefits while attending approved federal or state-sponsored vocational job training. Please visit or contact your local job center Reemployment Services Specialist for more details.

Please take this letter with you to the training provider you select. For the next 90 days, it confirms that you are a UI beneficiary. While it does not guarantee you a Pell Grant or other student aid, the training provider will use this letter in evaluating your need for financial aid. After 90 days, or if you lose this letter, you may provide other verification that you currently receive UI benefits, such as other written correspondence received from the UI program.

Visit us on the Internet

Victor Numbers

Unemployment Home Page	labor.alaska.gov/esd_unemployment_insurance
To file an Unemployment Claim	Login to my.alaska.gov , click on "Unemployment Insurance Benefits"
Alaska Job Center Network Home Page	jobs.alaska.gov
ALEXsys Registration, Resume	jobs.alaska.gov , click on "ALEXsys" (if no Internet access, call 877.724.2539)
Alaska Job Centers	jobs.alaska.gov , click on "Alaska Job Centers"

Anchorage	907.277.0693
Fairbanks	907.451.6126
Juneau	907.586.4650
Other Areas	888.222.9989

Claimant Name
Claimant Address
Claimant City, State ZIP
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

October 7, 2009

Dear Claimant Name,

New federal student aid opportunities are available to unemployed workers.

Unemployed workers receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits are eligible for special consideration for federal student aid. Studies have shown that workers with more education and training have more secure jobs and higher wages. We share your goal of a more secure future, and encourage you to consider job training as a means of achieving that goal.

It is easy to apply for financial aid and to find training providers. The United States Departments of Education and Labor have created a single web site, www.opportunity.gov, where you can find information, including links to other helpful web sites. If you are interested in pursuing training opportunities, here are some things to consider:

- Decide what type of training is currently available that best meets your reemployment needs. You can contact your local career one-stop to get started. For training information at the national level, visit www.careeronestop.org.
- If you are a UI claimant residing in Alaska, there are many employment and training services available to you through the Alaska Job Center Network (AJCN). You can visit one of the 23 statewide locations, go online at www.jobs.alaska.gov or call the toll-free number 1-877-724-2539. ALEXsys, our online Job Bank, is also available at the above web site. ALEXsys allows you to view jobs posted by employers throughout the state.
- Academic and vocational colleges also provide training information. They can help you apply for a federal Pell Grant, scholarship or other federal financial aid. A Pell grant can be a significant resource as it can cover up to \$5,350 in training expenses. Pell grants are accepted at nearly all universities, community colleges, and many trade and technical schools.
- A Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or by calling the toll-free number 1-800-433-3243.
- According to Alaska Statute 23.20.382, you may be eligible to continue collecting UI benefits while attending approved federal or state-sponsored vocational job training. Please visit or contact your local job center Reemployment Services Specialist for more details and begin to explore resources that can help you return to work quickly or support a training plan.

Please take this letter with you to the training provider you select. For the next 90 days, it confirms that you are a UI beneficiary. While it does not guarantee you a Pell grant or other student aid, the training provider will use this letter in evaluating your need for financial aid. After 90 days, or if you lose this letter, you may provide other verification that you currently receive unemployment insurance, such as other written correspondence received from the UI program.

We have an opportunity to improve workers' skills and lay the foundation for a stronger future. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clark Bishop". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clark Bishop
Commissioner

Regarding the questions you asked for your research project, Alaska did send letters to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative. I have attached copies of two notifications.

The first was mailed to all UI recipients in October 2009. In January 2010, we completed the programming and testing necessary to send a similar notification to all individuals filing a new claim for benefits. A copy of that message, which is still being used today, is also attached.

We are unable to respond to your other requests for information as we don't keep the information in the format you requested and we do not separately track Pell grants from other training funds for UI recipients.



Date

Name
Address
City, State

I am writing to urge you to consider taking advantage of new opportunities for education and training available now to unemployed workers.

On May 8, 2009, President Obama announced that workers like you who are getting unemployment insurance (UI) benefits would receive special consideration for financial aid to pay for job training or education. You may also be able to keep your UI benefits while enrolled. Studies have shown that workers with more education and training have more secure jobs and higher wages.

Effective July 2009, Federal Pell Grants will cover up to \$5,350 in education and training expenses. They are accepted at nearly all universities and community colleges and many trade and technical schools. Even if you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other financial aid.

Applying for financial aid and finding training are not difficult. The Departments of Education and Labor have created a single web site, www.opportunity.gov, where you can find helpful information.

If you are interested in pursuing these opportunities, here are the steps you should take:

- Decide what type of training best meets your needs. You may want to visit www.careeronestop.org or visit your local community college or Arkansas Workforce Center for help in identifying potential education and training opportunities. To locate the Arkansas Workforce Center nearest you, visit www.arworks.org and click on "Your Local Connection".
- Schools or Arkansas Workforce Centers can also help you apply for Pell Grants and other federal financial aid. An application is also available at www.fafsa.ed.gov or by calling 1-800-4FEDAID. While you will need to report last year's income when applying, your school can adjust your eligibility to reflect your current circumstances.
- Additional financial aid opportunities are also available through the Arkansas Department of Higher Education at www.adhe.edu. Certain financial aid programs, such as the GO! Opportunities Grant and the Workforce Improvement Grant (WIG) were created to help non-traditional students (or those already in the workforce) to get or improve the skills they need to compete in today's economy.

- Not all training you may wish to take will qualify as “approved training” for unemployment insurance benefit purposes. The advantage of being enrolled in approved training is that you will not be required to be available for work or look for work while in training in order to continue receiving your unemployment insurance benefits. The Arkansas Department of Workforce Services (DWS) will consider the following factors when considering whether to approve your selected training course:
 - ✓ Training must be full time
 - ✓ Training must be able to be completed within two years or less
 - ✓ You must possess the skills and aptitude necessary to complete the training
 - ✓ Training must be on the demand occupation list. Please visit www.discoverarkansas.net to see if a training course is on the list or ask your training provider for assistance. If a training course is not on the demand occupation list it still can be approved if you present a letter from an employer indicating that you will be hired upon completion of the training.

Once you have enrolled in a training course, if you are still applying for unemployment insurance benefits, you should report to your local DWS office and request that your training be approved. You will be required to complete a simple form to request approval. The DWS local office manager will notify you whether your training has been approved. If your training is not approved, you still may be able to collect unemployment insurance benefits as long as you can attend the training and establish that you are available and looking for suitable work.

Be sure to take this letter with you to the school you select. For the next 90 days, it confirms that you are an unemployment insurance beneficiary. While it does not guarantee you a Pell Grant, your school may use this letter to adjust your eligibility. After 90 days, you may provide alternative evidence that you are currently receiving unemployment insurance benefits. Your local DWS office can provide you with this evidence.

While our economy is struggling, we have an opportunity to improve workers' skills and lay the foundation for a stronger economy in the future. I encourage you to carefully consider this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Artee Williams

Did Arkansas send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? [Yes](#).

Would you please send us a copy? [Attached](#)

If YES:

a. On what date did Arkansas first send this letter? [July 29, 2009](#)

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

[The initial mailing went to all UI recipients with current regular, EUC, and EB claims.](#)

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? [No](#).

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009? [After the initial mailing the letter was mailed to all regular benefit claimants that received a first payment during the week.](#)

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

[No](#).

If no, when were the last letters sent out? [Arkansas mailed the letter each week July 29, 2009 through September 5, 2009 and then again October 29, 2009 through November 25, 2009.](#)

Please provide comments about whether the initiative was successful or not: [Arkansas has no statistical data to determine if the initiative was a success. However, DWS received anecdotal information from two-year colleges that enrollment may have increased due to the letters.](#)

Claimant Name
Claimant Mailing Address
Claimant City, State, Zip Code

Federal Initiative for Job Training or Education

This letter contains important information about new opportunities for education and training now available for unemployed workers.

On May 8, 2009, President Obama announced a federal initiative to allow dislocated workers or their dependents expanded access to financial aid for education and training during a period of economic uncertainty. This initiative enables applicants who apply for student federal financial aid to qualify based on their current economic status.

Beginning with the 2009-2010 academic years, the Federal Student Aid office within the U.S. Department of Education that issues the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) was mandated to broaden the eligibility criteria to include the unemployed status of an applicant, spouse, or parent.

Generally, federal grant aids such as the Pell Grant are available if you:

- Are a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen with a high school diploma,
- Have not earned a bachelor's degree, and
- Are attending an undergraduate or certificate program (generally a two or four-year degree program) at least half-time.

This federal initiative encourages financial aid administrators to use their discretion when determining your eligibility if you are receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. In addition to completing a FAFSA, you may be asked to provide UI documentation to the financial aid administrator so that your current financial status, including "special circumstance," is considered along with your past income information.

Although the Employment Development Department (EDD) cannot assist you with seeking or obtaining a Pell Grant or other federal or state student aid, you can find additional information on the FAFSA and apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov.

After you have applied for federal student aid, you may be required to show proof that you are currently receiving UI benefits to your school's financial aid office. The following documents are proof that you are receiving UI benefits:

- The *Notice of Unemployment Insurance Award* (DE429Z) letter that was mailed to you when the claim was filed.
- Any current message stub that is attached to your UI benefit check that reflects a payment or credit was issued.
- The Unemployment Claim Status and Payment History notice which can be requested by sending a message through the "Contact EDD" menu on the EDD Web site at www.edd.ca.gov.
- This letter that was mailed to you.

While you are receiving UI benefits, the EDD will ask that you report any school attendance because this raises a question of your availability to seek suitable work. Therefore, it is important that you make an informed decision about pursuing additional training and consider the potential effects on the continuation of your UI benefits. Even if a Pell Grant or other federal or state financial aid is awarded, in California, there is no guarantee that you would continue to receive unemployment compensation unless you continue to be available for and seek full-time work, or you are approved under the California Training Benefits (CTB) program.

Information about the CTB program and its criteria is provided in the enclosed *Tips for Qualifying for the California Training Benefits Program* (DE2332). Information about CTB eligibility requirements and how to apply is also available on the EDD Web site at www.edd.ca.gov.

Did California send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy?

If YES:

Yes; please see attached.

a. On what date did California first send this letter? October 26, 2009

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

X All UI recipients California mailed the attached letter to approximately 745,000 claimants who certified for unemployment benefits on a regular claim, Extended Benefit extension, and/or Emergency Unemployment Compensation extension from May 10, 2009 through September 30, 2009

 New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? Please refer to the response in item B above.

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

X One time Included with the one-time mailing was the attached information sheet titled "*Tips for qualifying for the California Training Benefits Program.*" The California Training Benefits Program is the program in California that allows UI claimants attending approved training to collect UI benefits without requiring them to actively seek work or be available for work. This information sheet provided claimants interested in an educational or training program with the UI benefits eligibility requirements pertaining to school or training attendance.

In addition to the one-time mailings, the EDD also published information about the federal education and training initiative and the California Training Benefits Program on our website. This information continues to be available on our website and can be found at:

http://www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/Federal_Initiative_for_Job_Training_or_Education.htm

Finally, in July 2011, pursuant to Assembly Bill 2058 (Chapter 591, Statutes of 2010), the California UI Program made changes to expand the types of training that can be "automatically" approved under the California Training Benefits Program. These changes included, but were not limited to, expanding eligibility to include training programs leading to a college degree if the training leads to a demand occupation in the California labor market.

 Repeated at
 weekly
 monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

 Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

In addition, would you please provide the following tabular information on UI recipients in your state by week for 2009 and 2010:

a. New claimants with approved training exemptions, The attached Excel spreadsheet contains the number of California UI recipients by week for 2009 and 2010 that were determined to eligible to participate in the California Training Benefits Program. The information contained in the spreadsheet includes both new claimants and continuing claimants, as we are unable to break the information out into separate categories.

b. Continuing claimants with approved training exemptions, Please refer to the response in item A directly above.

c. Number of UI recipients receiving Pell grants. This data is not tracked by the California Employment Development Department.

Did Colorado send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy? **Yes**
If YES:

a. On what date did Colorado first send this letter? **12/2009**

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients

New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? **As of the date we began mailing the letter, we sent it to all UI recipients who received a payment in the last four weeks plus all individuals who filed a new claim.**

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time

Repeated at ***daily interval**

weekly

monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

Did Connecticut send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy?

If YES:

a. On what date did Connecticut first send this letter? 10/22/09

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients

New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? All new UI recipients receive the letter.

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009? The letter goes out on a daily basis to all new UI recipients.

One time

Repeated at

weekly

monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

In addition, we would be grateful for any additional comments your office may be able to share about the implementation of this initiative and its effect on skills acquisition and re-employment. I am not aware of any study that measured the effect of this initiative on skills acquisition and re-employment.



In May 2009, it was announced that individuals filing for Unemployment Insurance benefits may receive special consideration for the Federal Pell Grant and other forms of financial aid to pay for job training or education. Some UI benefit recipients may also be able to continue receiving benefits while enrolled. Studies have shown that workers with more education and training have better job security and earn higher wages.

Federal Pell Grant scholarships covering up to \$5,350.00 in education and training expenses may be available for individuals meeting eligibility requirements. Pell Grants are accepted at nearly all universities and community colleges, and many trade and technical schools. Pell Grants are available only to individuals in an undergraduate degree or certificate program, regardless of full or part-time status. Students who already have an undergraduate degree cannot receive a Pell Grant to obtain another undergraduate degree. Even if you don't qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other aid.

Pell Grant Information

The U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Labor have created a single web site, www.opportunity.gov, where you can find helpful information and apply for a Pell Grant. An application is also available at www.fafsa.ed.gov, or by calling 1-800-4FEDAID. While you will need to report last year's income when applying, your school can adjust your eligibility to reflect your current circumstances. Colleges or One-Stop Career Centers can also help you apply for the Federal Pell Grant scholarships and other federal financial aid.

For Information:

If you are interested in obtaining more information about the Pell Grant please inquire with the Division of Employment and Training as part of the required registration process.

Continued Unemployment Benefits Eligibility

Currently, it is not every training program that excuses you from the requirement that you must continue to seek employment and remain available for work in order to receive unemployment benefits. **We encourage individuals to participate in job training; however, you should know that only approved training programs waive the requirements outlined below:**

In order for approval of training to be considered by the Department, Section 3315 (3), Title 19, Delaware Code states:

Provided that no unemployed individual shall become ineligible for benefits solely because the individual regularly attends a vocational training course which the Department has approved and which it continues from time to time to approve for the individual. The Department may approve such course for an individual only if:

a. Reasonable employment opportunities for which the individual is fitted by training and experience do not exist in the locality or are severely curtailed;

b. The training course relates to an occupation or skill for which there are expected to be in the immediate future reasonable employment opportunities in the locality;

c. The training course is determined by the Department to be reasonably calculated to meet the purposes of this subdivision; and

d. The individual, in the judgment of the Department, has the required qualifications and aptitudes to complete the course successfully.

Did Delaware send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy?
If YES:

a. On what date did Delaware first send this letter? [September 10 & 11, 2009](#)

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients

New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? [No](#)

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time*---The September 2009 mailing was a one-time mass mailing.

Repeated at

weekly ----[Provided to new claimants in-person if they file at a UI local office or by mail if they file online.](#)

[monthly interval](#)

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?



Andrew Barr [REDACTED]

Fwd: Documents Requested 2015-FOIA-03931

Turner, Sarah E. (set5h) [REDACTED]

Wed, Jul 29, 2015 at 4:53 PM

To: "Barr, Andrew C. (acb3u)" [REDACTED]

From: Sheikh, Arif (DOES) [mailto:[REDACTED]@c.gov]**Sent:** Wednesday, July 29, 2015 4:32 PM**To:** [REDACTED]@virginia.edu>**Cc:** Robinson, Tonya (DOES) [REDACTED]@c.gov>**Subject:** RE: Documents Requested 2015-FOIA-03931

[REDACTED]

Please see the following response to your questions:

1) Who received this letter? All UI beneficiaries or just the new beneficiaries at the time the letter was sent?

The mailer was sent to claimants that certified for benefits on or after the effective benefit week ending (BWE) date of 05/16/2009 and had not previously received a mailer. On 08/31/2009, we sent 31,895 mailers to those that had certified for BWE 05/16/2009 or later. On 09/29/2009, we sent 4,532 mailers to those whom had certified for BWE 05/16/2009 or later and had not previously received a mailer.

2) When was the letter sent? The date 11/19/2010 appears on the correspondence –was the letter only sent once (on this date) or has it been sent multiple times since May 2009?

The letter was sent to claimants on the following dates: 8/31/2009, 9/29/2009, 11/23/2009, 1/19/2010, and 2/8/2010.

Thank you,

Arif Sheikh

Department of Employment Services



Charlie Crist
Governor
Cynthia R. Lorenzo
Director

Mr. John Doe
1234 5th Street
Anytown, USA

In these extraordinary times, many job seekers are looking for a competitive advantage that can help them stand out to potential employers. Studies have also shown that workers with more education and training have more secure jobs and higher wages.

The Florida Workforce Development System and the Florida Education System are ready to assist you in your reemployment efforts. We want you to know about additional job training and career-related services available to you, and that financial assistance to help pay for job training may also be available.

President Obama recently announced that workers who are receiving Unemployment Compensation (UC) benefits will also receive special consideration for financial aid to pay for job training or education, and that many who participate in approved training programs may also be able to keep their UC benefits while enrolled.

As you are currently a UC recipient, you may be eligible for financial aid through federal Pell Grant scholarships, which cover up to \$5,350 in education and training expenses. They are accepted at nearly all universities, community colleges and many trade and technical schools.

Even if you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other financial aid from the federal or state government such as Carl Perkins loans, which are federal low-interest loans that must be repaid. Currently the maximum annual loan amount is \$4,000 for undergraduate students and \$6,000 for graduate students.

For more information about these programs and other education and training opportunities go to: www.floridajobs.org/pell or call 1-800-4FEDAID (1-800-433-3243).

Be sure to take this letter with you to the school you select. While it does not guarantee you a Pell Grant or Carl Perkins loan, for the next 90 days, it confirms your unemployment compensation eligibility while attending school. After 90 days, or if you lose this letter, you may provide the school a copy of the most recent Claims Continuation Notice that you have received from our office. (Please note that if enrollment in a training or education program affects your availability for work, the Agency will determine whether the training or school is approved for UC eligibility.)

We know you are facing unique challenges during these difficult economic times. We encourage you to carefully consider these opportunities as they would allow you to improve your education and skills, which may lead to new career opportunities.

Agency for Workforce Innovation
The Caldwell Building, Suite 100•107 East Madison Street•Tallahassee, Florida•32399-4120
www.floridajobs.org

An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers on this document may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711.

Barr and Turner "Understanding Enrollment Responses Among UI Recipients"
University of Virginia
Monroe Hall
McCormick Rd, Room 237
Charlottesville, VA 22903

As you may know, the Department of Labor issued guidance on May 8, 2009:

"To strongly encourage states to: (1) broaden their definition of approved training for Unemployment Insurance (UI) beneficiaries during economic downturns, (2) notify UI beneficiaries of their potential eligibility for Pell Grants and other student aid, and (3) help individuals apply for Pell Grants through One-Stop Career Centers."²

Did Florida send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy?

If YES:

- a. On what date did Florida first send this letter? *September 11, 2009*
- b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?
 All UI recipients
 New UI recipients
- c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter?
Recipients with active claims
- d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?
 One time
 Repeated at
 weekly
 monthly interval
- If repeated, is this policy ongoing?
 Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

October 2010 was when information was posted to the agency's website regarding the federal Pell grant.

Please provide comments about whether the initiative was successful or not:

² <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL21-08acc.pdf>

Did Georgia send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? **Yes**
Would you please send us a copy? **Yes**

If YES:

a. On what date did Georgia first send this letter? **August 2009 (actual date is not available)**

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients

New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? **No**

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time

Repeated at

weekly

monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

Did Hawaii send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy?
If YES:

a. On what date did Hawaii first send this letter?

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients 7/22/2009

New UI recipients daily

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter?

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time

Repeated at daily

monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

In addition, would you please provide the following tabular information on UI recipients in your state by week for 2009 and 2010: a. New claimants with approved training exemptions, b. Continuing claimants with approved training exemptions, c. Number of UI recipients receiving Pell grants. **this information is not available**

Did Idaho send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy?

If YES:

yes, unfortunately since it was over 4 years ago, we are unable to find a copy.

a. On what date did Idaho first send this letter?

May 2009

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients

New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? No

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time

Repeated at

weekly

monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

In addition, would you please provide the following tabular information on UI recipients in your state by week for 2009 and 2010:

a. New claimants with approved training exemptions,

2009 – 2244,

2010 – 3135

b. Continuing claimants with approved training exemptions,

2009 – 1470,

2010 – 1782

We are unable to break these down by week.

c. Number of UI recipients receiving Pell grants.

We did not distinguish claimants receiving Pell grants from those claimants in other approved schooling.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

11/11/2013

I am writing to urge you to consider taking advantage of new opportunities for education and training available now to unemployed workers.

On May 8, the President announced that workers like you who are getting unemployment insurance (UI) benefits will receive special consideration for financial aid to pay for job training or education. In some instances, it may be possible for you to keep your UI benefits while enrolled. Studies have shown that workers with more education and training have more secure jobs and higher wages.

Federal Pell Grant scholarships cover up to \$5,350 in education and training expenses. They are accepted at nearly all universities and community colleges, as well as at many trade and technical schools. Even if you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other aid.

The federal Departments of Education and Labor have created a single web site, www.opportunity.gov where you can find helpful information about training and financial aid. If you are interested in pursuing these opportunities, here are the steps you should take:

Decide what type of training best meets your needs:

You may want visit www.careeronestop.org or visit your local community college or Illinois workNet Center for help in identifying potential education and training opportunities. To locate the nearest One-Stop Career Center, you may call the toll free number: 1-877 US 2 JOBS (1-877 872-5627) for assistance. You may also find useful information on career opportunities, training requirements, and schools at the Illinois Career Information System (CIS) at <http://ilcis.intocareers.org/>.

Apply to an education or training program and apply for Financial Aid:

Most colleges and One-Stop Career Centers can also help you apply for Pell Grant scholarships and other federal financial aid. An application is also available at www.fafsa.ed.gov or by calling 1 800 4FEDAID. While you will need to report last year's income when applying for financial aid, your school can adjust your eligibility to reflect your current circumstances.

An individual can remain eligible for unemployment benefits while participating in a training program IF:

1) the individual remains available for work and actively seeking work and has not refused an offer of suitable work without good cause. OR

2) the training qualifies as "approved training" under state law.

NOTE: An individual whose principal occupation is that of a student whose course does not constitute approved training is ineligible for unemployment benefits.

For training to be approved it must meet the following requirements:

- * The training course must relate to an occupation or skill for which there are reasonable work opportunities in the locality
 - * The training course must be vocational; and
 - * The training course cannot be more than one year in duration; and
 - * The course must be designed to facilitate the individual's reemployment; and
 - * The course must focus on skills necessary for securing entry level employment; and
 - * The course must be at least 12 hours per week of instruction; and
- * The training course must be offered by a competent and reliable agency, education institution, or employing unit; and
- * Work opportunities for which the individual is currently qualified must be limited or not exist in the locality; and
- * The individual must have the qualifications and aptitude to complete the course successfully.

If you enroll in training under a Workforce Investment ACT (WIA) program, a WIA program representative will determine whether the training can qualify as approved training.

If you are not enrolled in a WIA program, contact your local IDES office or 1 (888) 776-7708 not more than 30 days before the training is scheduled to begin to determine if IDES can approve your training. IDES will need proof from the training provider or school stating the program or course you are enrolled in and its start and end dates.

Be sure to take this letter with you to the school you select to attend. For the next 90 days, it confirms that you are receiving unemployment benefits. While it does not guarantee you a Pell Grant, your school may use this letter to adjust your eligibility. After 90 days, or if you lose this letter, you may provide alternative evidence that you are currently receiving unemployment insurance, such as the biweekly statements of benefits.

While our economy is struggling, we have an opportunity to improve workers' skills and lay the foundation for a stronger economy in the future. I encourage you to carefully consider this opportunity.

For further information on Pell Grants, please see the enclosed Frequently Questions or questions may be directed to 1 (888) 776-7708.

Attached is the letter that we have been sending weekly to new claimants. We have no other documents that are responsive to your request.

If you disagree with this decision, you can seek judicial relief pursuant to Section 11 of FOIA [5 ILCS 140/11] or you may contact the Public Access Counselor at Office of the Attorney General, Public Access & Opinions Bureau, 500 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62706.



Andrew Barr <acb3u@virginia.edu>

FOIA Request

10 messages

Ramel, Gregory J. [REDACTED]

Wed, Nov 13, 2013 at 9:55 AM

To: Andrew Barr [REDACTED]

Attached is the letter that we have been sending weekly to new claimants. We have no other documents that are responsive to your request.

If you disagree with this decision, you can seek judicial relief pursuant to Section 11 of FOIA [5 ILCS 140/11] or you may contact the Public Access Counselor at Office of the Attorney General, Public Access & Opinions Bureau, 500 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62706.

Gregory J. Ramel
First Deputy Legal Counsel
Illinois Department of Employment Security
33 S. State St., Ste. 937
Chicago, IL 60603
(p) 312-793-2333
(f) 312-793-5645

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-----Original Message-----

From: NoReply@illinois.gov [mailto:NoReply@illinois.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 9:56 AM
To: Ramel, Gregory J.
Subject: Scan from a Xerox WorkCentre

Please open the attached document. It was scanned and sent to you using a Xerox WorkCentre.

Attachment File Type: PDF

WorkCentre Location: machine location not set
Device Name: C_9N053b_X5135

For more information on Xerox products and solutions, please visit <http://www.xerox.com>

 **DOC.PDF**
125K

Andrew Barr [REDACTED]

Wed, Nov 13, 2013 at 10:39 AM

To: "Ramel, Gregory J." <[REDACTED]>

Dear Mr. Ramel,


I really appreciate your help. We are trying to conduct research that will hopefully help policy and we contacted the Department of Employment Security (several times via e-mail and paper) before filing the FOIA request.

As you said, the letter has been sent out weekly to new claimants and it has a date at the top of it. It seems pretty clear that a letter was sent out each week (which would indicate that there are other documents responsive to the request). The only remaining question is when the first letter was sent. If you sent me a copy of the first letter sent out or the date (or even month and year) that would answer all of my questions.

Sincerely,

Andrew Barr
University of Virginia

[Quoted text hidden]

 **DOC.PDF**
125K

Andrew Barr [REDACTED] Wed, Nov 13, 2013 at 10:43 AM
To: "Turner, Sarah (Set5h)" [REDACTED]


Ready to take them to court? I followed up for more information, but I think it is unlikely we will get any more. Would be a pretty great part of a presentation to have a picture of us in Illinois court fighting for public access to information...

Andrew

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ramel, Gregory J.** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Wed, Nov 13, 2013 at 9:55 AM
Subject: FOIA Request
To: Andrew Barr <acb3u@virginia.edu>

[Quoted text hidden]

 **DOC.PDF**
125K

Ramel, Gregory J. [REDACTED] Wed, Nov 13, 2013 at 3:46 PM
To: Andrew Barr [REDACTED]

I cannot find anyone who knows the exact date. It was sometime near the issuance of the UIPL.

Gregory J. Ramel
First Deputy Legal Counsel
Illinois Department of Employment Security
33 S. State St., Ste. 937
Chicago, IL 60603
(p) 312-793-2333
(f) 312-793-5645

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From: Andrew Barr [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 9:40 AM
To: Ramel, Gregory J.
Subject: Re: FOIA Request

[Quoted text hidden]

Andrew Barr [REDACTED]
To: "Turner, Sarah (Set5h)" [REDACTED]

Wed, Nov 13, 2013 at 7:59 PM

Let me know if you have a thought on how to deal with this.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Ramel, Gregory J. <Gregory.Ramel@illinois.gov>

[Quoted text hidden]

Turner, Sarah (set5h) [REDACTED]
To: "Barr, Andrew (acb3u)" [REDACTED]

Wed, Nov 13, 2013 at 8:00 PM

What is UIPL

From: Andrew Barr [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 8:00 PM
To: Turner, Sarah (set5h)
Subject: Fwd: FOIA Request

[Quoted text hidden]

Andrew Barr [REDACTED]
To: "Turner, Sarah (set5h)" [REDACTED]

Wed, Nov 13, 2013 at 8:06 PM

I think it is Unemployment Insurance Program Letter (I assumed he was referring to the letter suggesting that Illinois send these letters out). Here is an example of a UIPL around the time period:

http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=2775

[Quoted text hidden]

Andrew Barr [REDACTED]
To: "Ramel, Gregory J." [REDACTED]

Thu, Nov 14, 2013 at 4:17 PM

Thank you for your help. I assume you mean the directive that came down to send the letters out around the end of May or beginning of June of 2009. Please let me know if my assumption is wrong. We really appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Andrew

[Quoted text hidden]

Ramel, Gregory J. [REDACTED]

Fri, Nov 15, 2013 at 10:30 AM

To: Andrew Barr [REDACTED]

There was a second directive indicating that the feds would pick up the cost of mailings. I assume that this influenced our decision, but I don't know this for sure.

Gregory J. Ramel
First Deputy Legal Counsel
Illinois Department of Employment Security
33 S. State St., Ste. 937
Chicago, IL 60603
(p) 312-793-2333
(f) 312-793-5645

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From: Andrew Barr [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 3:18 PM

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Andrew Barr [REDACTED]

Fri, Nov 15, 2013 at 10:39 AM

To: "Ramel, Gregory J." [REDACTED]

Great, thanks for the clarification. Have a nice weekend.

Andrew

[Quoted text hidden]

I apologize for the tardiness of this response. We appreciate your request for public records pursuant to our Access to Public Records Act (IC 5-14-3 et. seq.). We note that you requested documentary evidence of the existence of a letter that would have been sent to UI beneficiaries explaining to them their potential eligibility for Pell Grants and other student aid pursuant to guidance found in TEGL 21-08.

As I explained in my earlier response, I was not personally aware of any such letter, thus I enlisted the assistance of others within our agency to research the subject matter of your request. That research has been concluded and I represent to you that we did not find any evidence to suggest that we sent a letter to UI claimants notifying them of their potential eligibility for Pell Grants or other student aid. We do not have any such letter in our records and therefore we have no documentation relevant to the questions in your survey.

Accordingly we are unable to comply with your request on the grounds that the documents in question do not exist. I apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding in this matter. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Chester J. Culver, Governor

Patty Judge, Lt. Governor

Elisabeth Buck, Director



DATE

SS#

First Name / Last Name

Address1

Address2

City, State ZipCode

Dear First Name:

Recent legislation at both the state and federal level has created new opportunities for individuals receiving unemployment to pursue education and training opportunities without losing unemployment insurance benefits. On March 25th, Governor Chet Culver signed into law the Iowa Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act, which, among other things, provides Iowans with the opportunity to secure an additional 26 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits while in an approved training program for high-growth/high-demand occupations.

On May 8th, President Obama announced that individuals who are getting unemployment insurance benefits will receive special consideration for financial aid to pay for additional job training or higher education. Studies have shown that Iowans with more education and training have more secure jobs and earn a higher income.

Federal Pell Grant scholarships cover up to \$5,350 in education and training expenses such as tuition, books and supplies. They are accepted at nearly all universities and community colleges and many trade and technical schools. Even if you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other financial aid.

There are a multitude of resources available for researching and applying for financial aid opportunities. The US Departments of Education and Labor have created www.opportunity.gov to provide detailed information. The Iowa College Student Aid Commission (ICSAC) provides a vast array of resources and assistance. Information is available at www.iowacollegeaid.org or 877-272-4456. Additionally, a number of programs exist for Iowa workers who lost their job due to a layoff or plant closing that can assist with the costs of training. Contact your local workforce center in {insert city based on zipcode} at {insert address}.

If you are interested in pursuing retraining or other education opportunities, you should:

- Determine what type of training or educational opportunity best meets your needs. You may want to visit your local Iowa Workforce Development Center in {insert city} and utilize a multitude of career exploration and skill assessment tools; access Labor Market and Workforce Information at www.iowaworkforce.org/lmi; visit a local community college or other institution to explore opportunities; or contact the Iowa College Student Aid Commission for assistance with exploring educational avenues at www.iowacollegeaid.org.

- Educational institutions, ICSAC or Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) can provide assistance and direction for completing the Pell Grant scholarship and other financial aid applications. Applications are also available 24/7 at www.fafsa.gov or by calling 800-4FEDAID during business hours. While you will need to report last year's income when applying, your educational institution can adjust your eligibility to reflect your current circumstances.
- Additionally, you will need to contact the {insert city} Workforce Development Center at {insert address} in advance of enrolling to ensure that you can continue to receive unemployment benefits while enrolled in the program you have chosen. Not every training program available excuses you from the requirement that you seek and are available for work in order to receive unemployment insurance benefits.
- For individuals in need of a GED, it is possible to attend these classes and maintain your unemployment insurance benefits. GED classes are available in Iowa through local community colleges, GED OnDemand through Mediacom Cable and other locations. Your local Iowa Workforce Development Center can provide you with information on the closest facility.
- For individuals lacking basic computer skills, introductory level classes are available in communities across the state. Iowa Workforce Development can provide you with information on what's available in your area.

It's important that you take this letter to the school you select. For the next 90 days, it confirms that you are an unemployment insurance beneficiary. While it does not guarantee you a Pell Grant, your school will use this letter to adjust your eligibility. After 90 days, or if you lose this letter, you may provide alternative documentation that you are currently receiving unemployment insurance. Contact your local Iowa Workforce Development Center and request a payment history for your unemployment insurance benefits.

While both the national and Iowa economies have been struggling, it's important that we use this time to improve the skills of our workforce. As the economy rebounds and grows, Iowa's 21st century opportunities will require 21st century skill sets. I encourage you to consider this opportunity to improve your skills.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Buck
Director, Iowa Workforce Development

Dear Director Wahlert:

We have been trying to get the assistance of your office since May in answering a few straightforward questions about Unemployment Insurance and the Pell grant program. We have sent the short request below by email and paper mail on several occasions.

Our hope is that we can collect the needed information for Iowa, which is among a small number of non-respondents, without generating a FOIA request. If you are not the appropriate contact, would you please direct me to the correct contact?

My research team is evaluating how notification about the availability of educational opportunities affects the post-secondary educational attainment of UI benefit recipients. As you may know, the Department of Labor issued guidance on May 8, 2009:

“To strongly encourage states to: (1) broaden their definition of approved training for Unemployment Insurance (UI) beneficiaries during economic downturns, (2) notify UI beneficiaries of their potential eligibility for Pell Grants and other student aid, and (3) help individuals apply for Pell Grants through One-Stop Career Centers.”

[\[http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL21-08acc.pdf\]](http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL21-08acc.pdf)

Our interest is in understanding how Iowa responded to this guidance. In particular, we are interested in whether Iowa sent a letter, the associated timing of the mailing, and the population of UI recipients targeted to receive such communication. Our questions follow below:

Did Iowa send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8

2009? Would you please send us a copy as a pdf attachment to email or by regular mail?

If YES:

- a. On what date did Iowa first send this letter? **July 16, 2009**
- b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution? **All**

All UI recipients
 New UI recipients

- c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? **No, it was automatically sent to all**
- d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009? **New recipients starting UI through CY2009 received the mailing. The information was also posted on our web site and provided in the workforce centers.**

One time
 Repeated at
 weekly
 monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing? **No**

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out? **Previously answered**

Barr and Turner "Understanding Enrollment Responses Among UI Recipients"
University of Virginia
Monroe Hall
McCormick Rd, Room 237
Charlottesville, VA 22903

As you may know, the Department of Labor issued guidance on May 8, 2009:

"To strongly encourage states to: (1) broaden their definition of approved training for Unemployment Insurance (UI) beneficiaries during economic downturns, (2) notify UI beneficiaries of their potential eligibility for Pell Grants and other student aid, and (3) help individuals apply for Pell Grants through One-Stop Career Centers."²

Did Kentucky send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy?

If YES:

- a. On what date did Kentucky first send this letter? *August 2009*
- b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?
 All UI recipients
 New UI recipients
- c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? *No*
- d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?
 One time *for existing claimants*
 Repeated at *claim filing for new claims*
 ___ weekly
 ___ monthly interval
- If repeated, is this policy ongoing?
 ___ Yes ___ No
- If no, when were the last letters sent out?

Please provide comments about whether the initiative was successful or not:

² <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL21-08acc.pdf>

Date of Mailing

Claimant Name

Claimant Address

Claimant City/State/Zip

RE: New opportunities for education and training now available to you

This letter is to inform you that if you are receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, you will be given special consideration for financial aid to pay for job training or education. **You may also be able to keep your UI benefits while enrolled.** Federal Pell Grant scholarships are available and they cover up to \$5,350 in education and training expenses. They are accepted at nearly all universities, community colleges and technical schools. Even if you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other aid.

Applying for financial aid and finding training is not difficult. The U.S. Departments of Education and Labor have created a website, www.opportunity.gov, where you can find helpful information. **If you are interested, here what you should do:**

1. **Decide what type of training best meets your needs.** Then, for help in identifying potential education and training opportunities.
 - a. Go to www.careeronestop.org, or
 - b. Visit your local community and technical college, or
 - c. Go to your local Business and Career Solutions Center (BCSC)

To locate the nearest community and technical college, go to www.lctcs.edu; to find the nearest Business and Career Solutions Center, go to www.laworks.net and select "Local Offices & Services" in the upper right of the home page.

2. **Determine what kind of financial aid you can obtain.** You can apply for Pell Grant scholarships and other federal financial aid by going to www.fafsa.gov or by calling 1-800-4FEDAID. Assistance in applying is also available at community and technical colleges and BCSCs.
3. **Confirm that your training program is LWC approved – OR YOU MAY LOSE YOUR UI BENEFITS.** You can apply for Approved Training by completing LWC Form 130, available on the www.laworks.net website. From the home page, select Downloads, then Unemployment Insurance, then Benefits, or type in this direct link: http://www.laworks.net/Downloads/UI/UI_ApprovedTraining.pdf Follow the instructions found on the form. If you do not have access to a personal computer, computers are available at your nearest Business Career Solution Center or your local library.

Be sure to take this letter with you to the school you select. For the next 90 days, it confirms that you are an unemployment insurance beneficiary. While it does not guarantee you a Pell Grant, your school will use this letter to adjust your eligibility. After 90 days, or if you lose this letter, you may provide evidence that you are currently receiving unemployment insurance. Information on your recent unemployment insurance payments may be found at www.laworks.net: Select Unemployment Insurance, then Links for Claimants.

Did Louisiana send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? **Yes**

Would you please send us a copy as a pdf attachment to email or by regular mail? **Attached.**

If YES:

a. On what date did Louisiana first send this letter?

Due to the volume (72,095), we mailed the letters over a 3-day period: November 25th, 27th and 30th, 2009.

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients **(with exceptions, see below)**

New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? – **We excluded those already enrolled in training and those exhausting EUC benefits.**

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
President's Training Initiative
54 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0054

<<Claimant's Name>>
<<Address 1>>
<<Address 2>>
<<City, State, Zip>>

<<date mailed>>

Dear UI Participant:

I am writing to you to urge you to consider taking advantage of opportunities for education and training available now to unemployed workers.

On May 8, President Obama announced that workers like you who are getting unemployment insurance benefits (UI) will receive special considerations for financial aid to pay for job training or education. While enrolled in an approved program, you may be able to continue to receive your UI benefits until they are scheduled to run out. Studies have shown that workers with more education and training have more secure jobs and higher wages.

You may be eligible for financial aid assistance through the Federal Pell Grant scholarship program. Federal Pell Grant scholarships cover *up to* \$5,350 in degree related education and training expenses. They are accepted at nearly all universities and community colleges and many trade and technical schools. Even if you are not eligible for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other types of financial aid through your education or training provider.

The federal Departments of Labor and Education have created a single website, www.opportunity.gov with helpful information. For Maine specific information visit: www.mainecareercenter.com/opportunity.

If you are interested in pursuing education and training opportunities, here are the steps you should take:

Decide what type of education or training best meet your needs

You may visit www.careeronestop.org, a local community college, university, or Maine CareerCenter for help in identifying potential education/training opportunities. For information on local higher education visit: <http://www.mainecareercenter.com/opportunity> or www.maine.gov/education/highered/index.htm.

Apply to an education or training program and apply for Financial Aid

We will provide assistance for applying to schools and for financial aid through the Maine CareerCenter system. Please go to: <http://www.mainecareercenter.com/opportunity> to register for financial aid and college application workshops or call 1-877-411-1011. Most schools can help you apply for Pell Grant scholarships and other financial aid. An application is also available at www.fafsa.ed.gov or 1-800-4FEDAID. You will need to report last year's household income when applying for aid, but the school(s) you are attending or applying to can adjust your eligibility to reflect your current economic situation.

Get your education or training program approved

Not every education/training program excuses you from the requirement that you be available for and actively seeking work in order to receive UI benefits. Before enrolling in a program, you need to make sure that the course or program is “approved” for your work search requirement to be waived. You can check online to see if the course you are thinking of has already been “approved” by going to www.mainecareercenter.com/opportunity and following the link to “find approved training.” If the course or training you want to take is not on the list, you must complete an “approved training application” (also at the same website) and return it to the address provided on the form. Your application will be submitted to the Maine Unemployment Insurance Commission for consideration. The Commission will notify you of their determination. If you have any questions about the approved training application process, please contact an unemployment claim representative at **1-800-593-7660** or 207-621-5101.

If the training you are enrolling in already appears on the “approved training” list, you must still contact the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation in order to protect your unemployment benefits and waive your work search requirement. We will need written proof that you are enrolled in training from the training provider/school that must include: the name of the school or training program, the name of the course you are enrolled in, the start and end dates of the course or program and a contact name from the school or training facility. Once you get this statement from your school or training facility, you can fax it directly to the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation at 207-287-3395 or mail it to the bureau at:

Maine Department of Labor
Bureau of Unemployment Compensation
Attn: Special Program Unit
47P State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0047

These steps will ensure that you will continue receiving your UI benefits without interruption or delays.


If you are enrolled in a training program arranged through a Department of Labor CareerCenter, your CareerCenter case manager will provide the Unemployment Bureau with your approved training verification in order for the work search waiver to be applied to your claim.

Be sure to take this letter with you to the school you select to attend. For the next 90 days, it confirms that you are receiving unemployment benefits. While it does not guarantee you a Pell Grant, your school will potentially use this letter to adjust your eligibility for financial aid. After 90 days, or if you lose this letter, you may provide other evidence that you are currently receiving unemployment insurance, such as a Maine UI benefit screen print of your UI benefit information. To get this information go to: <https://portalxw.bisoex.state.me.us/webing/>

While our economy is struggling, we have an opportunity to improve worker's skills and lay the foundation for a stronger economy in the future. I encourage you to carefully consider this opportunity.

We have included in this mailing an information sheet – “Frequently Asked Questions and Checklist about the President’s Training Initiative.” Please refer to it for additional information. For further information, please contact us at 1-877-411-1011.

Sincerely,



Laura A. Fortman
Commissioner, Maine Department of Labor

Our interest is in understanding how Maine responded to this guidance. In particular, we are interested in whether Maine sent a letter, the associated timing of the mailing, and the population of UI recipients targeted to receive such communication. Our questions follow below:

Did Maine send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy as a pdf attachment to email or by regular mail?

If YES:

- a. On what date did Maine first send this letter? **June 5, 2009**
- b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients
 New UI recipients

- c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? **Not with initial mailings, afterwards, sent to every new UI claimant as they established an initial claim.**
- d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time

Repeated at

weekly **for a few weeks and then to just new claimants**
 monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out? I do not recall – we continued for at least 1 to 2 years though.

508

Dear Unemployment Insurance Claimant:

We are writing to urge you to consider taking advantage of new opportunities for education and training available now to unemployed workers. President Obama announced that workers like you who are getting unemployment insurance (UI) benefits will receive special consideration for financial aid to help pay for job training or education. You may also be able to continue receiving UI benefits while enrolled. Studies have shown that workers with more education and training have more secure jobs and higher wages.

You may be eligible for financial aid assistance through the Federal Pell Grant program. Federal Pell Grants can be used to cover some education and training expenses and are accepted at nearly all universities and community colleges as well as many trade and technical schools. Even if you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other types of financial aid.

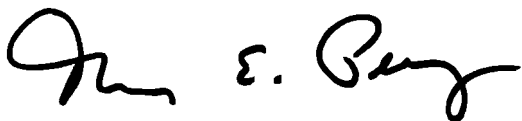
If you are interested in pursuing these opportunities, here are the steps you should take:

1. Decide what type of training best meets your needs. Please visit <http://www.mhec.state.md.us/career/WIA/searchfor.asp> or a local community college for help in identifying potential education and training opportunities.
2. Contact the institution for enrollment information and to complete the Federal Application for Student Financial Aid (FAFSA). You may also apply online at www.fafsa.gov or call 1-800-4FEDAID for Pell Grant and other Federal financial aid opportunities. **PRESENT** this letter to the training program/school you have selected. For the next 90 days, this letter will verify that you are receiving unemployment insurance benefits. While this letter does not guarantee you a Pell Grant, your training program/school may use it to adjust your financial aid eligibility. After 90 days (or if this letter is misplaced), you may provide alternate documentation (such as your UI check stub or copy of your debit card on-line statement) confirming that you are receiving UI.
3. If you are notified of a Pell Grant award you must contact your nearest Maryland One-Stop Career Center to schedule an appointment to apply for a UI work search waiver. To be considered for a work search waiver, you must provide the following items at the time of your appointment: copies of your Pell Grant award letter; this unemployment insurance letter; and a description of the training program printed from the WIA approved training provider list (available at the web address above.) If your waiver is approved, the One-Stop Career Center will forward electronic approval to the Division of Unemployment Insurance to prevent the interruption of your UI benefits.

A list of the One-Stop Career Centers in Maryland is on the reverse side of this letter.

While our economy is struggling, you have a chance to improve your skills and lay the foundation for a stronger economic future. We encourage you to consider this opportunity.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Perez, Secretary
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation



James E. Lyons, Sr., Secretary
Maryland Higher Education Commission

ONE-STOP CAREER CENTERS (07/09)
(33 Centers)

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
7480 Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard
Suite 100
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
Phone: 410-424-3240
Fax: 410-508-2002

Job Center
80 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
Phone: 410-269-4429
Fax: 410-974-2023

Fort Meade Outreach Center
(must have military ID)
Bldg. 4432
Fort Meade, MD 20755
Phone: 410-674-5240
Fax: 410-672-3543

Sales & Service Training
Center at Arundel Mills
Anne Arundel Community College
7000 Arundel Mills Circle
Hanover, MD 21076
Phone: 410-777-1845
Fax: 410-799-4411

BWI Thurgood Marshall International
Airport:
BWI Airport One-Stop Career Center
P.O.Box 46024
BWI Airport, MD 21240
Phone: 410-684-6838

BALTIMORE CITY
Baltimore Works One-Stop Career
Center
1100 N. Eutaw Street
Room 101
Baltimore, MD 21201
Phone: 410 767-2148
TTY: 410-767-2117
Fax: 410-333-7858

Eastside One-Stop Career Center
3001 E. Madison Street
Baltimore, MD 21205
Phone: 410-396-9030
Fax: 410-396-4063

Northwest One-Stop Career Center
(Re-entry Center)
Mondawmin Mall
Suite 302
2401 Liberty Heights Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
Phone: 410-523-1060
Fax: 410-523-0970

BALTIMORE COUNTY
(E) Baltimore County Workforce
Development Center at Eastpoint
7930 Eastern Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21224
Phone: 410-288-9050
Fax: 410-288-9260

Baltimore County Workforce
Development Center at Hunt Valley
11101 McCormick Road, Suite 102
Hunt Valley, MD 21031
Phone: 410-887-7940
Fax: 410-329-1317

FREDERICK COUNTY
Frederick County Workforce Services
Frederick County Business and
Employment Center
5340 Spectrum Drive, Suite A
Frederick, MD 21703
Phone: 301-600-2255
Fax: 301-600-2906

LOWER SHORE
(E) WICOMICO COUNTY
One Stop Job Market
917 Mount Hermon Road, Suite 1
Salisbury, MD 21804
Phone: 410-341-6515
Fax: 410-334-3454
onestopjobmarket.com

MID-MARYLAND
Business & Employment
Resource Center
224 N. Center Street
Westminster, MD 21157
Phone: 410-386-2820
Fax: 410-876-2977

HOWARD COUNTY
Columbia Workforce Center
7161 Columbia Gateway Drive
Suite D
Columbia, MD 21046
Phone: 410-290-2600
Fax: 410-312-0834

Professional Outplacement
Assistance Center
7161 Columbia Gateway Drive
Suite D
Columbia, MD 21046
Phone: 410-290-2600
Fax: 410-312-0834

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
(E) Montgomery Works
Westfield Shopping Center
South Office Building
11002 Veirs Mill Road
Wheaton, MD 20902
Phone: 301-929-4350
Fax: 301-929-4383

Montgomery Works
Lakeforest Mall-2nd Level
701 Russell Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
Phone: 301-519-8253
Fax: 301-519-8259

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
1100 Mercantile Lane
Suite 100
Largo, MD 20774
Phone: 301-618-8425
Fax: 301-386-5533

(E) Employment Service
Business Resource Center
(must have appointment)
312 Marshall Avenue
Suite 504
Laurel, MD 20707
Phone: 301-362-9708
301-362-9709 español
Fax: 301-362-9719

SOUTHERN MARYLAND
CALVERT COUNTY
Louis L. Goldstein Multi-
Purpose Center
200 Duke Street
Room 1400
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Phone: 443-550-6750
Fax: 301-855-1961

(E) CHARLES COUNTY
175 Post Office Road
Waldorf, MD 20602
Phone: 301-645-8712
Fax: 301-645-8713

SAINT MARY'S COUNTY
The Joseph D. Carter
Multi-Service Center
23110 Leonard Hall Drive
P.O. Box 282
Leonardtown, MD 20650
Phone: 301-880-2800
Fax: 301-475-4106

SUSQUEHANNA REGION

HARFORD COUNTY
Bel Air Workforce Center
Mary Risteau Bldg. 2nd Flr.
2 South Bond Street
Bel Air, MD 21014
Phone: 410-836-4603
Fax: 410-836-4640

Aberdeen Workforce Center
Community Services Building
3rd Floor
34 N. Philadelphia Boulevard
Aberdeen, MD 21001
Phone: 410-272-5400
Fax: 410-272-2092

CECIL COUNTY
Cecil County Workforce Center
1275 West Pulaski Highway
Elkton, MD 21921
Phone: 410-996-0550
Fax: 410-996-0555

UPPER SHORE
CAROLINE COUNTY
D.L.L.R. Denton Caroline
County Career Center
300 Market Street, Suite 201
Denton, MD 21629
Phone: 410-819-4549
Fax: 410-819-4503

DORCHESTER COUNTY
627A Race Street
Cambridge, MD 21613
Phone: 410-901-4250
Fax: 410-221-1817

KENT COUNTY
The Kent Family Center
601 High Street
Chestertown, MD 21620
Phone: 410-778-3525
Fax: 410-778-3527

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY
Queen Anne's Co. Career Center
(Tuesday only)
125 Comet Drive
Centreville, MD 21617
Phone: 410-758-8044
Fax: 410-758-8113

TALBOT COUNTY
Bay Street Plaza
301 Bay Street, Suite 301
Easton, MD 21601
Phone: 410-822-3030
Fax: 410-820-9966

WESTERN MARYLAND
ALLEGANY COUNTY
Allegheny County One-Stop Job Center
138 Baltimore Street, Suite 102
Cumberland, MD 21502
Phone: 301-777-1221
Fax: 301-784-1702

GARRETT COUNTY
Garrett County One-Stop Job Center
221 South Third Street
Oakland, MD 21550
Phone: 301-334-3972
Fax: 301-334-2106

(E) WASHINGTON COUNTY
Washington County One-Stop Job Center
14 N. Potomac Street, Suite 100
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Phone: 301-393-8200
Fax: 301-791-4673

El (E) significa una oficina
donde un empleado habla
español.

TTY users, call via the
Maryland Relay Service

Reasonable accommodations
are provided upon request.
Check with your local One
Stop for details.

www.mwejobs.com

Did Maryland send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy?
If YES:

a. On what date did Maryland first send this letter? **8/31/09**

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients

New UI recipients (**receiving first payment**)

NOTE: On September 18, 2009, a one-time run of 117,000 letters were sent to all claimants who received any type of regular or federal extension benefit during the month of August 2009.

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter?

Letters were sent to claimants who received their first UI payment the prior week.

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time

Repeated at

weekly

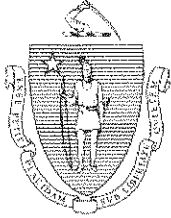
monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

Letters are mailed each Monday to UI claimants who have received their first benefit payment the prior week.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LT. GOVERNOR

SUZANNE M. BUMP
SECRETARY

MICHAEL TAYLOR
DIRECTOR

EDWARD T. MALMBORG
DIRECTOR

October 30~~26~~, 2009

2009

Claimant Name:

Re: Eligibility for Pell Grants and Other Financial Aid

On May 8, 2009, President Obama announced that individuals receiving UI benefits will receive special consideration for financial aid to help defray the cost of education and/or job training opportunities. The U.S. Departments of Education and Labor are taking measures to enable more workers who are collecting unemployment insurance benefits to pursue job training and to develop their skills while the economy recovers.

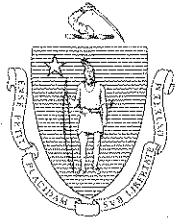
This letter serves to notify you that you may be eligible for Federal Pell grants and or other types of student financial aid to assist you in paying for education and/or job training.

- Pell Grants are accepted at nearly all universities and community colleges, and many trade and technical schools.
- Pell Grants can cover up to \$5,350 in education and training expenses, based on financial need and your status as a student.
- Pell Grants are only available for individuals enrolled at least half-time in an undergraduate degree or certificate program and *are not available* to individuals who have already received a bachelor's degree.
- If you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other financial aid.
- Other financial aid can include campus-based programs as well as loans.

If you are interested in pursuing these opportunities, here are some helpful steps you should take:

1. Find useful information at www.opportunity.gov, a single web site created by the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor, about applying for financial aid and finding training opportunities.
2. You may also contact your One-Stop Career Center for help in identifying potential opportunities. You can visit www.mass.gov/careercenters or call the toll free number **1-877-US-2-JOBS** (1-877-872-5627) to locate the One-Stop Career Center nearest you.
3. Apply for financial aid. An application is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov or by calling **1-800-4-FED-AID**.

4. After you've completed the FAFSA form and applied to the education or training provider of your choice, contact your school's financial aid office. Bring this letter to that financial aid office for up to 90 days from the date of this letter, to verify your status as an unemployment insurance beneficiary. The financial aid office will make the determination of your eligibility for student financial assistance. (If the 90 days has expired, and you are still eligible for unemployment, please contact our agency at (617) 626-6800 to receive current documentation of your unemployment status.)
5. Valuable information about training programs and resources, including the Section 30 Training Opportunities Program, is available at our website, www.mass.gov/dua. Certain eligibility criteria must be met, but if you apply for and are approved for Section 30, you may be able to attend training and receive your unemployment benefits even though you are not available for and seeking work. Although the President has strongly encouraged states to allow more kinds of training in their unemployment programs, not every training program excuses you from the requirement that you must be seeking and available for work in order to receive unemployment benefits.
6. Finally, if you are seeking other types of financial assistance through the Career Centers, please note that additional eligibility requirements may apply.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

JOANNE F. GOLDSTEIN
SECRETARY

MICHELLE R. AMANTE
DIRECTOR

July 24, 2013

Sarah E. Turner
University Professor
P.O. Box 400182
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4182

Dear Ms. Turner,

Attached is the data you requested regarding the expansion of Pell Grant Eligibility to Unemployment Insurance Claimants, and other student aid.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at 617-626-6500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Amante".

Michelle Amante,
Director

Barr and Turner "Understanding Enrollment Responses Among UI Recipients"
University of Virginia
Monroe Hall
McCorraick Rd, Room 237
Charlottesville, VA 22903

As you may know, the Department of Labor issued guidance on May 8, 2009:

'To strongly encourage states to: (1) broaden their definition of approved training for Unemployment Insurance (UI) beneficiaries during economic downturns, (2) notify UI beneficiaries of their potential eligibility for Pell Grants and other student aid, and (3) help individuals apply for Pell Grants through One-Stop Career Centers.'²

Did Massachusetts send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy? **IF YES:**

a. On what date did Massachusetts first send this letter?

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients
 New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter?

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time
 Two times (July 2009 & October 2009)
 Repeated at
 weekly
 monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

October 2009

Please provide comments about whether the initiative was successful or not:

The Pell Grant letter, Flyer, and Training Opportunities Brochure was sent on July 2009 to a total of 100,000 claimants in 9 languages. 2% of the 100,000 claimants contacted the One-Stop Career Centers.

Did Michigan send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy?

If YES:

a. On what date did Michigan first send this letter?

Michigan did send out letters regarding the Pell Grant program. The letters began to go out on 7/11/2009.

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients
 New UI recipients

The letters went out to all UI claimants who were paid for week ending 5/16/2009.

b. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter?

Claimants who were paid for week ending 5/16/2009. This including all programs (regular UI, EUC and EB)

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time
 Repeated at
 weekly
 monthly interval

This was mailed weekly to claimants who received a first payment after week ending 5/16/2009.

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

Letters were sent out from May 2009 through April 2013

Did Minnesota send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy?

If YES:

a. On what date did Minnesota first send this letter?

Mid-July 2009

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients

New UI recipients

We did a single "catch up" mailing and then weekly mailings for new applicants.

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? **No.**

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time

Repeated at

weekly

monthly interval


If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out? **Summer 2011**

In addition, would you please provide the following tabular information on UI recipients in your state by week for 2009 and 2010: a. New claimants with approved training exemptions, b. Continuing claimants with approved training exemptions, c. Number of UI recipients receiving Pell grants.

There are no standard reports that provide this data. We would need to charge you for our time to create such reports.

PELL_GRANT	Mississippi Department of Employment Security M D E S Pell Grant Information	
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Date Mailed: 05/28/2013

CLAIMANT INFORMATION

Claimant Name: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED]

NOTICE

In May 2009, it was announced that individuals filing for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits will receive special consideration for Pell Grant financial aid to pay for job training or education. If you are receiving UI benefits, you may also be able to continue receiving benefits while enrolled. Studies have shown that workers with more education and training have better job security and earn higher wages.

Federal Pell Grant scholarships covering up to \$5,350 in education and training expenses may be available for individuals meeting eligibility requirements. Pell Grants are accepted at nearly all universities and community colleges, and many trade and technical schools.

The Departments of Education and Labor have created a single web site, www.opportunity.gov, where you can find helpful information and apply for a Pell Grant. An application is also available at www.fafsa.ed.gov, or by calling 1-800-4FEDAID.

In addition, the Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) has WIN Job Centers located throughout the state that can assist you in finding training and employment opportunities.

You may visit www.mdes.ms.gov for more information on services available from MDES or visit your nearest WIN Center at:

LEXINGTON WIN JOB CENTER
106 WESTWOOD AVE
LEXINGTON, MS 39095

If you enroll in school or training, you must contact the MDES Unemployment Insurance Call Center at 601-855-3133 or 1-888-844-3577 and provide detailed information on the training. **We encourage individuals to participate in job training, however you should know that only approved training programs waive the requirement that you must be seeking and available for full-time work to continue receiving weekly unemployment benefits.**

While our economy is struggling, we have an opportunity to improve workers' skills and lay the foundation for a stronger economic future. You are encouraged to seek training and job opportunities. Please contact MDES for more information on this and other workforce development programs available in Mississippi.

TO OPEN — TEAR OFF SIDE PERFORATIONS AND SLIDE FINGER UNDER TOP EDGE.



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

PO Box 1699
Jackson MS 39215-1699

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE & FEES PAID
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
JACKSON MS
PERMIT NO. 297



2496

PELL GRANT

Mississippi's Community and Junior Colleges provide quality, affordable, and flexible education and workforce training opportunities to help you have a better job and a better life.

For more information or to locate a college near you, go to <http://www.mscjc.edu>

Did Mississippi send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy?

If YES:

a. On what date did Mississippi first send this letter? [June 8, 2009](#)

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients

New UI recipients ([as they have filed daily](#))

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? [No](#)

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time

Repeated at ([daily intervals when new claims are filed](#))

weekly

monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

[We have no statistical data created which will disclose numbers related to claimants award of Pell grants.](#)



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

421 E. DUNKLIN ST., P.O. BOX 59
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65104-0059
www.labor.mo.gov/DES

The purpose of this letter is to personally advise you of new opportunities for education and training now available to unemployed workers.

On May 8, 2009, President Obama announced that workers who are receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits will be given special consideration for federal financial aid to pay for job training or education, and also may be able to continue receiving UI benefits while enrolled in training with the state's approval. Studies have shown that workers with more education and training have more secure jobs and higher wages.

The Federal Pell Grant program can provide up to \$5,550 for educational costs and job training expenses. This grant program is accepted at most universities and community colleges, and at many trade and technical schools. Even if you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other aid.

Applying for federal financial aid and finding training is not difficult. The U.S. Departments of Education and Labor have created a single website, www.opportunity.gov, where you can find helpful information. If you are interested in pursuing these opportunities, here are the steps you should take:

- Decide what type of education or job training best meets your needs. You may view www.careeronestop.org, visit your local community college, or personally go to a Missouri Career Center for help in identifying potential education and job training opportunities. To contact the nearest Missouri Career Center, you may call the toll-free number at 888-728-5627 or access www.MissouriCareerSource.com.
- Consider utilizing a college or Missouri Career Center to help you apply for a Pell Grant and other federal financial aid. The Free Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA) also is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov or by calling 1-800-4FEDAID. Although you will need to report last year's income when applying, your school or job training can adjust your eligibility to reflect your current circumstances.

A basic Pell Grant cannot be used to fund additional bachelor degrees if the individual already has a bachelor's degree.

You must take this letter with you to the school or job training you select to attend. For the next 90 days, it confirms that you are a UI beneficiary. While it does not guarantee that you will be a Pell Grant recipient, your school or job training will use this letter to adjust your eligibility. After 90 days, or if you lose this letter, you may provide alternative evidence that you currently are receiving UI benefits by going to www.moclaim.mo.gov and clicking on "View Claim Status." You can print current claim information from this screen.

Upon receiving approval for a Pell Grant, you should call your Regional Claims Center one week prior to the start of your schooling or training for instructions.

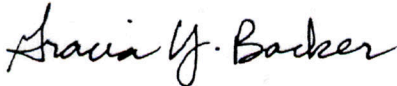
Telephone numbers for the Regional Claims Centers are:

Jefferson City	573-751-9040
Kansas City	816-889-3101
Springfield	417-895-6851
St. Louis	314-340-4950
Toll Free	800-320-2519

While our economy is struggling, we have an opportunity to improve workers' skills and lay the foundation for a stronger economy in the future.

I encourage you to carefully consider this opportunity.

Sincerely,



Gracia Y. Backer
Division Director

Barr and Turner "Understanding Enrollment Responses Among UI Recipients"
University of Virginia
Monroe Hall
McCormick Rd, Room 237
Charlottesville, VA 22903

As you may know, the Department of Labor issued guidance on May 8, 2009:

"To strongly encourage states to: (1) broaden their definition of approved training for Unemployment Insurance (UI) beneficiaries during economic downturns, (2) notify UI beneficiaries of their potential eligibility for Pell Grants and other student aid, and (3) help individuals apply for Pell Grants through One-Stop Career Centers."²

Did Missouri send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy? yes
If YES:

a. On what date did Missouri first send this letter?

June 8, 2009

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients retroactive to May 10, 2009
 New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter?

First mailing was sent to all claimants in pay status beginning May 10, 2009.
Subsequent mailing sent to all claimants upon issuance of first payment.

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time
 Repeated at
 weekly
 monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

Please provide comments about whether the initiative was successful or not:

Missouri believes providing claimants with additional information about federal aid for job training and for education is beneficial in helping claimants acquire the skills they need to return to work more quickly.

² <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL21-08acc.pdf>

State of Montana
Department of Labor & Industry
Brian Schweitzer, Governor

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DIVISION
Roy Mulvaney, Administrator



WORKFORCE SERVICES DIVISION
Mike Cooney, Administrator

NOTICE OF POTENTIAL EDUCATIONAL GRANTS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

President Obama recently announced that workers who are getting unemployment insurance benefits will receive special consideration for financial aid to help pay for job training or education. You may be eligible for financial aid assistance through the Federal Pell Grant program. Federal Pell Grants cover *up to* \$5,350 in education and training expenses, and are accepted at almost all universities and community colleges, and many trade and technical schools. Even if you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you may qualify for other educational assistance.

The U.S. Departments of Education and Labor have created a single web site, www.opportunity.gov with helpful information. If you are interested in these educational opportunities, here are the steps you should take:

- **Decide what education or training meets your needs.** You may want to visit www.careeronestop.org, your local community college, or a One-Stop Career Center for help in identifying education and training opportunities. Certified One-Stop Career Centers and locations are listed later in this letter.
- **Apply to an education or training program and apply for Financial Aid.** Most colleges and Universities and the Montana One-Stop Career Centers can provide you with information that will help you apply for a Pell Grant, scholarships and other federal financial aid. An application is also available at www.fafsa.ed.gov or by calling 1-800-4FEDAID (1-800-433-3243). While you will need to report last year's income when applying, your school can adjust your eligibility to reflect your current circumstances

Be sure to take this letter with you to the school you select to attend. For the next 90 days it confirms that you are receiving UI benefits. While it does not guarantee you a Pell Grant, your school may use this letter to adjust your eligibility for financial aid. After 90 days you may provide other evidence that you are receiving unemployment insurance such as your monetary determination.

We have included additional information about applying for Pell Grants as well as the location of One-Stop Career Centers around the state.

Sincerely,

Roy Mulvaney, Administrator
Unemployment Insurance Division

Mike Cooney, Administrator
Workforce Services Division

Certified One-Stop Systems

Bitterroot Workforce One-Stop System

Hamilton Job Service Workforce Center
333 W. Main Street
Hamilton, Mt 59840
(406) 363-1822

Capital Area Workforce System

Helena Job Service Workforce Center
715 Front Street
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 447-3200

Central Montana Workforce System

Lewistown Job Service Workforce Center
300 First Ave N
Lewistown, MT 59457
(406) 538-8701

Eastern Plains Workforce System

Glendive Job Service Workforce Center
211 South Kendrick
Glendive, MT 59330
(406) 377-3314

Flathead One-Stop Workforce System

Flathead One-Stop Workforce Center
427 First Ave East
Kalispell, MT 59903
(406) 758-6200

Havre Area Workforce System

Havre Job Service Workforce Center
160 First Ave
Havre, MT 59501
(406) 265-5847

Kootenai One-Stop Workforce System

Kootenai One-Stop Workforce Center
417 Mineral Ave, Ste 4
Libby, MT 59923
(406) 293-6282

Mission Valley One-Stop Workforce System

Polson Job Service Workforce Center
417-B Main
Polson, MT 59860
(406) 883-7880

Missoula Area Workforce System

Missoula Job Service Workforce Center
539 S 3rd Street West
Missoula, MT 59806
(406) 728-7060

Missouri River Workforce System

Great Falls Job Service Workforce Center
1018 7th Street South
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 791-5800

Northeast Montana Workforce Development System

Glasgow Job Service Workforce Center
74 4th St N
Glasgow MT 59230
(406) 406-228-9369

Wolf Point Job Service Workforce Center

201 Main Street
Wolf Point, MT 59201
(406) 653-1720

Rocky Mountain Front Workforce Center

Cut Bank Job Service Workforce Center
501 East Main Street
Cut Bank, MT 59427
(406) 873-2191

Shelby Job Service Center

202 Main Street
Shelby, MT 59474
(406) 434-5161

Sanders County One-Stop Workforce Center & System

Sanders County Job Service Workforce Center
2504 Tradewinds Way, Ste 1
Thompson Falls, MT 59873
(406) 827-3472

South Central JobLINC One-Stop Center

Billings Job Service Workforce Center
2121 Rosebud Drive, Stop B
Billings, MT 59102
(406) 652-3080

Southeastern Montana Workforce System

Miles City Job Service Workforce Center
12 North 10th Street
Miles City, MT 59301
(406) 232-8340

Sidney Job Service Workforce Center

211 North Central
Sidney, MT 59270
(406) 433-1204

Southwest Montana Workforce System

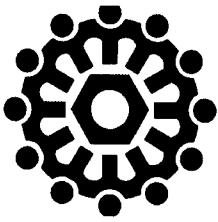
Butte Job Service Workforce Center
2201 White Blvd
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 494-0300
Dillon Job Service Workforce Center
730 N. Montana CL #4
Dillon, MT 59725
(406) 683-4259

Tri-County Workforce System

Anaconda Job Service Workforce Center
307 East Park Street
Anaconda, MT 59711
(406) 563-3444

Yellowstone Area System

Bozeman Job Service Workforce Center
121 N Wilson
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 582-9200
Livingston Job Service Workforce Center
220 E Park St.
Livingston, MT 59047
(406) 222-0520



Governor Steve Bullock
Commissioner Pam Bucy

Montana Department of LABOR & INDUSTRY

Commissioner's Office

July 16, 2013

Sarah E. Turner
University Professor
Economics & Education
University of Virginia
Monroe Hall
McCormick Rd, Room 237
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Dear Sarah,

This letter is in response to your communication requesting data from Montana on your research for "Understanding Enrollment Responses among UI Recipients." Our office is pleased to assist you in your efforts in addressing how Montana responded to President Obama's initiative regarding assisting our customers in their educational opportunities on their road to reemployment.

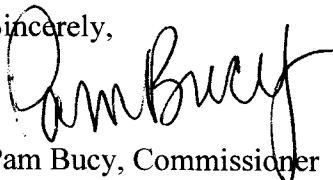
While Montana has always provided this assistance to our customers this effort brought the importance of stepped up measures to the forefront during our country's most recent economic downturn. Although Montana has not continued the notification effort, this initiative brought forth, we can assure you our Job Service Offices continue to inform their customers through one-on-one sessions the opportunities available in their efforts for educational advancement.

Please find Montana's information about our experience with the Pell Grant notification initiative next to your question on a separate sheet of this communication.


We wish you good luck in your research efforts. If there is any published information about your research efforts Montana would be very interested in your findings.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your research.

Sincerely,


Pam Bucy, Commissioner

Andrew: Please send a short note to Pam. Thank for information, but note that letter was not attached.



Did Montana send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? **Yes** Would you please send us a copy? **Copy attached.**

If YES:

a. On what date did Montana first send this letter? **The week of July 24, 2009 through July 30, 2009, Montana sent out initial notification with a staggered initial mailing due to the large volume of notifications.**

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients who were receiving payments at the time of distribution received our initial notification. (A total of approximately 11,795 individuals)

New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? **All UI Claimants who were receiving payments received the letter with the exception of those who were currently on TAA/TRA and those attending approved training.**

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009? We sent the letters weekly to anyone who received a payment who hadn't previously been sent a letter until May 6, 2011. We sent out a total of 78,294 letters.

One time

Repeated at

weekly

monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes

No

If no, when were the last letters sent out? **May 6, 2011**

Did Nebraska send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? **NO, in 2009 no educational program associated with a Pell grant was eligible under the UI Approve Training program, based on Nebraska Administrative Code for the approved training program eligibility WIA training options had Pell Grant associations and any WIA recipient would have been provided the necessary information through WIA providers**

Would you please send us a copy? NO,
If YES:

a. On what date did Nebraska first send this letter?

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients
 New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter?

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time
 Repeated at
 monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

Did Nevada send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? **No**

Would you please send us a copy?

If YES:

a. On what date did Nevada first send this letter?

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients

New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? **N/A**

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009? **N/A**

One time

Repeated at

weekly

monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

I was able to do a bit of research. We did not send out a mailer to our claimants. At the time this program was announced we were in the midst of transitioning to a new benefit payment system and were having difficulties getting required mailings to go out appropriately. We did place posters in our local offices and referred claimants to our partner agencies which handle funding for training for our state. The Work Force Investment Act is out sourced to partner agencies within our state. I hope this information helps. Please let me know if you need anything further.

June XX, 2009

Name
Address
City, State Zip Code

Dear:

President Obama recently announced that recipients of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits will receive special consideration for financial aid (specifically Pell Grants) to pay for job training or education. In addition, UI recipients **may also be able to continue receiving benefits** while enrolled in training or educational programs.

Federal Pell Grant scholarships cover up to \$5,350 in education and training expenses. They are accepted at nearly all universities and community colleges and many trade and technical schools. Pell Grants are available for an undergraduate degree or certification programs regardless of your full or part-time status. However, if you already have an undergraduate degree a Pell Grant **cannot** be used to obtain a second undergraduate degree. Pell Grants may be used for certification programs by recipients who have an undergraduate degree. In the event that you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you **may be eligible** for other monetary aid to assist in paying for training or education, such as student loans or State and federal training dollars provided through the One-Stop career Center system.

The United States Departments of Education and Labor have created a single website, www.opportunity.gov, where you can find helpful information pertaining to applying for financial aid and finding training and educational opportunities.

If you are interested in pursuing these opportunities, you should take the following steps **prior to enrolling** in any course of study:

- Visit the federal website at www.fafsa.ed.gov or call 1-800-4FEDAID (1-800-433-3243) or visit the state website at http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/roles/faq/faq_index.html for answers to frequently asked questions regarding financial aid and eligibility.
- Consider what type of training or educational opportunity best addresses your needs. You should then contact an institution that provides the course of study and inquire if it is a Title IV eligible institution (Qualified under the Higher Education Act as eligible to receive Pell Grants). A list of training/educational providers can be found at www.njtrainingsystems.org and <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>.
- If the training/educational provider is Title IV eligible, ask the financial aid officer to determine if you are eligible for a Pell Grant under the special rules for workers receiving UI benefits.

- Contact your nearest One-Stop Career Center to ensure that you can continue to receive your UI benefits while enrolled in training. Please note that **not every training or educational program excuses you from the requirement that you must be seeking employment and are available for work in order to receive UI benefits.** To locate your nearest One-Stop Career Center you can visit: <http://lwd.state.nj.us/labor/wnjpin/findjob/onestop/services.html> or call 1-877-US-2-JOBS (1-877-872-5627).
- Educational institutions or One-Stop Career Centers can assist you in applying for Pell Grants and other financial aid. One-Stop Career Centers also have counselors available to assist you in deciding what type of training or educational program would be most beneficial to your circumstances or to assist you in addressing barriers to employment.

Please take this letter with you to the training/educational provider that you choose, to confirm that you are an unemployment insurance beneficiary. **While this letter does not guarantee your eligibility** for a Pell Grant, the school can use this letter as justification for adjusting the eligibility criteria to reflect your current circumstances. After 90 days, or if you misplace this letter, you may provide alternative evidence that you are currently receiving UI benefits, such as your most recent benefit check stub or biweekly UI certification form.

While the economy is struggling, you have the opportunity to improve your skills and lay the foundation for a better career. I encourage you to consider this opportunity carefully.

Sincerely,

David J. Socolow
COMMISSIONER

Did New Jersey send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009?

YES

Would you please send us a copy?

If YES:

Copy is attached

a. On what date did New Jersey first send this letter?

Beginning with June 26, 2009 over a four week period

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients

New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? NO

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time

Repeated at

weekly

monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

Sarah,

I personally responded to this inquiry via regular mail. The answer to your question was that No, NM did not send such communication to UI claimants.



NEW YORK STATE
David A. Paterson, Governor

Draft Letter Advising Claimants of Pell Grants and UI Approved Training

{UI Recipient Name} – Required
{UI Recipient Address} – Required

{DATE}

I am pleased to inform you of a new opportunity to receive federal student financial assistance for education and training. On May 8th, President Obama announced that individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits will be given special consideration for Pell Grants and other forms of federal student aid for job training or education. The Pell Grant covers up to \$5,350 in education expenses, and is accepted at nearly all universities and community colleges, as well as some trade and technical schools. The President also encourages states to allow individuals to receive unemployment insurance benefits while enrolled in state-approved training, something New York State already does.

Your local One-Stop Career Center can help you identify education and training opportunities that meet these requirements. You can locate the Center nearest you by calling the following toll free numbers: 1-800-447-3992 or 1-888-469-7365, or by visiting the website www.labor.state.ny.us/workforcenypartners/osview.asp. You can also visit the website www.careeronestop.org and/or your community college.

To apply for a Pell Grant, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or the “FAFSA” as it commonly called. The FAFSA is available by phone at 1-800-4FEDAID (1-800-433-3243) or on the FAFSA website at www.fafsa.gov. The FAFSA website provides step-by-step instructions for filling out the FAFSA, and allows you to complete and submit your application online. You can also track your application through the financial aid process.

If you are applying to a school that participates in federal student aid programs, the school’s financial aid office can also help you complete the FAFSA. Be sure to provide a copy of this letter to the school as confirmation of your unemployed status, which is necessary to determine your eligibility for a Pell Grant.

These are difficult economic times, and education and training can help improve your employment prospects, future job security and wages. It also provides the foundation for a strong economic recovery for New York State. Therefore, I encourage you to carefully consider participating in this education and training opportunity.

Sincerely,

David A. Paterson
Governor



NEW YORK STATE
David A. Paterson, Governor

M. Patricia Smith
Commissioner
NYS Department of Labor

Dennis Golladay
Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges
State University of New York

DRAFT June XX, 2009

Dear: Community College Presidents
Local Workforce Investment Area Executive Directors

SUBJECT: Pell Grants and the Payment of Unemployment Benefits to Individuals in
Approved Training

We are very pleased that on May 8, 2009, the U.S. Department of Labor issued Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 21-08 (attached), which strongly encourage states to notify unemployment insurance (UI) beneficiaries of special consideration being given to them for Pell Grant eligibility and other student aid, and to offer help in applying for a Pell Grant through the One-Stop Career Centers.

This directive clearly recognizes that improving workforce skills during a severe economic downturn is vital to the foundation for economic recovery. It also recognizes that education and training improves an individual's self-esteem and future job security and wages.

In response to this directive, Governor Paterson will be sending the attached notification to the state's approximate 455,000 current UI beneficiaries – beginning the week of June 22, 2009. This is intended to encourage UI beneficiaries to seek training at One-Stop Career Centers and Community Colleges.

We are writing to you because this a great opportunity for us, as a system, to provide access to the kind of education and training that improves people's lives, and to demonstrate what we do best – help people advance themselves. We know the value of strong partnerships between One-Stop Career Centers and Community Colleges in many areas of the state. Those efforts are recognized, greatly appreciated and encouraged.

Sincerely,

M. Patricia Smith
Commissioner

Dennis Golladay
Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges

DRAFT 06-10-2009

Our interest is in understanding how New York responded to this guidance. In particular, we are interested in whether New York sent a letter, the associated timing of the mailing, and the population of UI recipients targeted to receive such communication. Our questions follow below:

Did New York send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy?

Yes. Attached is a sample copy of the letter to individuals receiving UI. Also attached, is the letter we sent at the same time to Community College Presidents and Local Workforce Investment Area Executive Directors.

If YES:

- a. On what date did New York first send this letter?
New York began sending letters on July 20, 2009.
- b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?
 All UI recipients
 New UI recipients
- b. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter?
N/A
- d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?
 One time
 Repeated at
 weekly
 monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

In addition, we would be grateful for any additional comments your office may be able to share about the implementation of this initiative and its effect on skills acquisition and re-employment.

Overall, it does appear the letter increased awareness and use of the Pell Grants. While we did not specifically track Pell Grants in our interactions with claimants at our New York State Career Centers, a review of our comments from claimants indicating that customers came into our centers in response to the letter. We found that:

- Nationally 19 million Pell Grant applications were submitted in 2009. This was the highest number in the history of the program.
- The federal government allocated \$30 billion more for Pell Grants in 2009-2010, a 64% increase from the prior year.



Employment Security Commission of North Carolina

P.O. Box 25903, Raleigh, NC 27611-5903

Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor

Moses Carey, Jr.
Chairman

<<Date>>

<<Claimant Name>>

<<Claimant Street Address>>

<<Claimant City, State, Zip

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNEMPLOYED WORKERS

On May 8, 2009 President Obama announced that individuals drawing unemployment insurance (UI) benefits will receive special consideration for financial aid to pay for job training or education, and may also be able to keep UI benefits while enrolled. You are encouraged to take advantage of new opportunities for education and training.

Federal Pell Grant scholarships are awarded based on financial need and other factors and covers education and training expenses. They are accepted at nearly all universities and community colleges, and many trade and technical schools. Even if you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other educational assistance.

Applying for financial aid and finding training are not difficult. The Department of Education and the Department of Labor have created a single web site, www.opportunity.gov where you can find helpful information. If you are interested in pursuing these opportunities, here are the steps you should take:

- Decide what education or training meets your needs. Contact any college, other training provider or One-Stop Career Center for help in identifying potential education and training opportunities. To locate the nearest One-Stop Career Center, call the toll free number 1-877-US-2-JOBS for assistance, or visit www.servicelocator.org.
- Apply for the Pell Grant. Colleges/Universities can help you apply for Pell Grant scholarships and other federal financial aid. An application is also available at www.fafsa.gov or by calling 1-800-4FEDAID. While you will need to report last year's income when applying, your school can adjust your eligibility to reflect your current circumstances. When you go to apply, take a copy of this letter with you as evidence that you are a UI beneficiary. This letter does not guarantee you a Pell Grant but your school will use it to evaluate your eligibility.
- Not every education or training program will excuse you from the requirements you must meet to receive UI benefits. Approved enrollment in school or training does not add to your UI benefits.

Rev. 05119/09



Ms. Turner,

Due to the time that has passed with this mailing, we are able to offer only the following information. We've answered your questions the best we possibly could at this time. If further information can be gathered on this subject, we will be happy to pass it along.

Thank you,

1.) Documents indicating whether a letter was sent.

A) Attached is an email indicating the letters were printed and set to mail out to over 330,000 existing claimants.

2.) A copy of the letter if one was sent.

A) Attached.

3.) Documents indicating who the letters were sent to.

A) Included in attachment.

4.) Documents related to when the letters were first sent.

A) Included in attachment.

5.) Documents indicating if this was a one-time mailing.

A) We believe that once the 330,000 were mailed out, the mailings ceased. However we keep an updated version of the letter online.

Link: <http://www.ncesc1.com/individual/downloads/NCESCPellGrantLetter.pdf>

6.) Documents indicating how often the letters were sent.

A) It's difficult to determine at this time how often they were sent out.

7.) Documents related to when the last letters were sent or if the letter sending is ongoing.

A) We cannot determine when the last one was sent out. Again, we maintain an updated version online.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

OFFICE OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

PELL GRANT NOTICE

JFS-55000 08/11/2010

Claimant's Name [REDACTED]	Application Date 08/09/2010	Benefit Year Beginning Date 08/16/2009	Benefit Year Ending Date 08/14/2010
[REDACTED]		Date Issued 08/16/2010	Social Security Number [REDACTED]
		ODJFS Office: MANSFIELD PROCESSING CENTER PO BOX 758 MANSFIELD, OH 44901-0758 Phone: (866) 849-0029 Fax: (419) 528-4023	



Greetings,

I am writing to urge you to take advantage of new opportunities for education and training available to unemployed workers.

As a result of a new federal initiative, unemployed workers receiving unemployment compensation benefits will receive special consideration for financial aid to pay for education and training. One type of financial aid for which you may be given special consideration is the Federal Pell Grant. The Federal Pell Grant is a need-based grant available to low-income students to help cover tuition, fees, books and related expenses. These grants can be applied toward most undergraduate and many certificate programs at universities, community colleges, trade, technical schools, and adult career centers. Federal Pell Grants are available to individuals who do not already possess a bachelor's degree and can be used when enrolled full-time or part-time in a qualified degree or certificate program. Even if you do not qualify for a Federal Pell Grant, you may be eligible for additional financial aid in the form of other grants, scholarships and low-interest student loans.

In addition, the Strickland Administration has expanded unemployment compensation eligibility so that **dislocated workers can continue to receive any benefits you are entitled to while also enrolled in a full-time accredited training and education program.** This is an excellent opportunity for **unemployed Ohio workers** to develop new skills. Please note that enrolling in training or education programs will not extend or reduce the number of weeks that you may receive unemployment compensation.

If you are interested in pursuing these opportunities, it is important that you save this letter and take it with you to your school's (or prospective school's) financial aid office to discuss next steps. For the next 90 days, this letter confirms you as an unemployment compensation beneficiary. While it does not guarantee you a Federal Pell Grant, it is a valuable document for education and training providers to have on hand when reviewing your financial aid eligibility and determining an award package. After 90 days, or if you lose this letter, you may provide alternative evidence of your unemployment compensation eligibility, such as your determination of benefits. More information appears on the reverse side of this letter.

You can learn more about grants, scholarships, and financial aid at www.ohioheretohelp.com. This new website also provides information about adult education, apprenticeship, and other training programs that you may find helpful.

Education is the gateway to a good career and a prosperous economy. I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities.

Sincerely,

Douglas E. Lumpkin, Director
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Si usted no puede leer esto, llame por favor a 1-877-644-6562 para una traducción.



A35225625E0026822001

Who is affected by this expanded approval?

This expanded approval of training of UC eligibility is made available to individuals who, prior to becoming unemployed, would be considered to be primarily a worker attached to the work force.

How do I take advantage of this opportunity?

The first step is to decide what training you want to pursue and then apply for admission. You may want to view www.careeronestop.org or visit your local college, university or community college for help in identifying potential education or training opportunities. Contact information for Ohio's public colleges, universities, regional branch campuses and adult career centers that comprise the University System of Ohio can be found at www.uso.edu. Your local One-Stop Career Center can also assist you in career planning and help identify approved educational opportunities. To locate your nearest One-Stop, call this toll free number: 1-877-US-2-JOBS (1-877-872-5627) or visit www.servicelocator.org

The next step is to apply for the Federal Pell Grant and/or other types of financial aid. The financial aid office at any local college, university, community college or adult career center, as well as the Ohio Benefit Bank sites, can assist you in applying for Federal Pell Grants, or other available financial aid programs. To find the Ohio Benefit Bank location nearest you, call toll free 1-800-648-1176, or visit www.obb.ohio.gov. A free financial aid application (that will automatically determine your eligibility for Federal Pell Grant and federal student loans) is also available at www.fafsa.ed.gov or by calling 1-800-4FEDAID. While you will need to report last year's income when applying initially, your college financial aid office can work with you to adjust your financial aid eligibility to more accurately reflect your current circumstances. The school may request additional information from you to help determine eligibility.

Finally, let your unemployment processing center know that you are enrolling in training. This will help your unemployment benefits to continue without interruption **if your training is approved.** The phone number of your processing center can be found on nearly all notices you receive from the Office of Unemployment Compensation. You can also call toll free 1-877-644-6562 to obtain **your processing center's phone number.**

What kinds of training can I enroll in?

- Any full-time program at any accredited college, university, community college, adult career center, trade or technical school
- Any U.S. Department of Labor registered apprenticeship program
- Training associated with any of the following employment services programs:
 - Trade Adjustment Assistance
 - Ohio Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Ohio Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired
 - Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

You also may enroll in part-time training opportunities; however, please realize that you may still be required to seek work while participating in part-time education.

Where can I find more information about training?

The U.S. Departments of Education and Labor have created a single website, www.opportunity.gov, where you can find helpful information on training and financial aid. The state website, www.ohiolmi.com, also contains helpful information on education, jobs and careers.

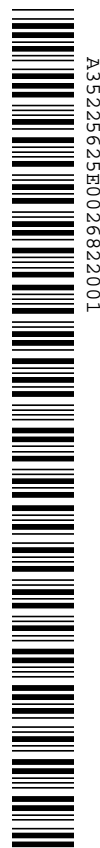
Where can I find information on apprenticeship programs or high-demand occupations?

To find available apprenticeship programs, go to <http://jfs.ohio.gov/apprenticeship/>. Information on high-demand careers in Ohio can be found at <http://www.ohiolmi.com/jobs/careers.htm>.

Does the state have any other special programs that can help me?

Yes. For more information about other programs and services that may be available to you, go to <http://ohioired.gov/> and click on "Job Seekers."

Si usted no puede leer esto, llame por favor a 1-877-644-6562 para una traducción.



Dear Ms Turner, I am responding to your public records request. For information relating to Pell Grants. I have attached a relevant notice that the Department sent out. The notice was sent out to all active claimants on 12/01/2009. We continue to send this to claimants .

You had also asked for claimant information. Unfortunately, The Department cannot provide you this information pursuant to ORC 149.43 (A) (1)(v), as it is not a public record.



Educational Opportunities for Unemployed Workers

The Obama administration has announced that individuals getting unemployment insurance (UI) benefits will receive special consideration for financial aid to pay for job training or education and may also be able to keep UI benefits while enrolled.

Federal Pell Grant scholarships are awarded based on financial need among other factors and cover up to \$5,350 in education and training expenses. They are accepted at nearly all universities and community colleges, as well as many trade and technical schools. Even if you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other educational assistance.

Applying for financial aid and finding training is not difficult. The Departments of Education and Labor have created a single web site, www.opportunity.gov with helpful information. If you are interested in pursuing these opportunities:

- Community Colleges or Career Technology Centers can help you apply for Pell Grant scholarships and other federal financial aid. An application is also available at www.fafsa.edu.gov or by calling 1-800-433-3243. While you will need to report last year's income when applying, your school can adjust your eligibility to reflect your current circumstances.
- Take this letter with you when you apply at your local Community College or Career Technology Center. It is valid for 90 days and confirms you are a UI beneficiary. While this letter does not guarantee you a Pell Grant, your school will use it to evaluate your eligibility. If you lose this letter, or the 90 days has expired, you may provide alternative evidence you are receiving UI, such as your Unemployment Insurance Monetary Determination of Benefits.

Not every education or training program excuses you from the requirements you must meet to receive UI benefits. Please contact your nearest Workforce Center at www.servicelocator.org before enrolling in school or training to ensure that you can continue to receive UI benefits while in the program you have chosen.

This letter only applies to you if you are planning on attending school or training.



September 13, 2013

Executive Director Richard McPherson
Oklahoma Employment Security Commission
PO Box 52003
Oklahoma City, OK 73152-2003

Monroe Hall (FedEX. UPS)
McCormick Rd
P.O. Box 400182 (U.S. Mail)
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4182

RECEIVED
SEP 20 2013

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Mr. McPherson;

We need your help! My research team is trying to understand how informational notifications from the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program about the availability of post-secondary funding through the Pell grant program affect behavior. Our research relies on comparing outcomes across states and we need answers to a few straightforward questions from Oklahoma.

Did Oklahoma send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant guidance issues on May 8 2009?¹

Yes ___ No

If YES:

- a. On what date did Oklahoma first send this letter? *10.19.2009*
b. Would you please send us a copy of this letter? *Attached.*
c. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients
___ New UI recipients

- d. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? *No.*
e. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time
___ Repeated at
___ weekly ___ monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing? ___ Yes ___ No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

¹As you may know, the Department of Labor issued guidance on May 8, 2009 encouraging states to: "To strongly encourage states to: (1) broaden their definition of approved training for Unemployment Insurance (UI) beneficiaries during economic downturns, (2) notify UI beneficiaries of their potential eligibility for Pell Grants and other student aid, and (3) help individuals apply for Pell Grants through One-Stop Career Centers."
<http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL21-08acc.pdf>

We thank you, in advance, for your willingness to respond to this query. We would welcome responses by email (sturner@virginia.edu) and we have also included a return envelope.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch if we can answer additional questions about this research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sarah E. Turner".

Sarah E. Turner
University Professor
Economics & Education



STATE OF OREGON EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT

UI CENTER STREET ADDRESS LINE 1

ADDRESS LINE 2

Phone (NNN) NNN-NNN

Fax (NNN) NNN-NNN

Claimant Name
Address
Address
City, State Zip

CID: NNN-NN-NNNN
BYE: NNNN/NN FO: NNN
DATE: Month NN, 2009

Please disregard this letter if you are not interested in job training or educational opportunities.

Recently President Obama announced that people who receive unemployment insurance (UI) benefits may receive financial aid to pay for job training or education. You may be able to continue receiving your UI benefits while enrolled in an approved training program. Studies have shown workers with more education and training have more secure jobs and higher wages.

Federal Pell grants help cover education and training expenses. Nearly all universities and community colleges and many trade and technical schools accept these grants. Even if you do not qualify for a Pell grant, you may be eligible for other financial aid.

It is not difficult to find training or apply for financial aid. The U.S. Departments of Education and Labor created a web site, www.opportunity.gov where information is available.

If you want to pursue these opportunities, take these steps:

- Decide what type of training best meets your needs. You may visit www.careeronestop.org or your local community college or WorkSource Oregon Center for help identifying potential education and training opportunities. To locate the nearest WorkSource Oregon Center, call toll free, 1-877-US-2-JOBS (1-877-872-5627) or visit www.servicelocator.org. Oregon residents can also go to www.worksourceoregon.org to locate the nearest WorkSource Oregon office.

The school you select will require proof you are receiving unemployment insurance. You can obtain printouts of required information at www.workinginoregon.org.

- Colleges or WorkSource Oregon Centers can help you apply for Pell Grants and other financial aid. Applications are also available by calling 1-800-4FEDAID, or online at www.fafsa.gov. The web page allows you to “Fill Out Your FAFSA” and submit it electronically, which has a much faster turnaround time than mailed applications. You will need your prior year’s tax return and documentation of other income in order to complete the application. Once your FAFSA has been sent to the college(s) of your choice, you can request a “Professional Judgment” from the college(s) to consider your current income. You need to report last year’s income when applying, but your school may adjust your eligibility to reflect your current income. Check with your chosen school(s) to find out the timelines and policies for income adjustments. You are subject to all rules regarding any loans or grants you receive for school.
- Finally, if you will be attending school full time, please contact the Training Programs Unit (TPU) at 1-800-436-6191 to apply for training approval.

- Training Unemployment Insurance (TUI) is intended for short-term professional training of dislocated workers and Economically Distressed Workers. The training you attend must be related to an occupation or skills which offer reasonable employment opportunities. If approved, the TPU waives the requirement of actively seeking work while you attend training. TUI covers you only as long as you have unemployment benefits remaining and not necessarily to the very end of your training. The training you attend must be full time and your program must not be for a Bachelor's or higher education degree. In a semester/term college environment full time is considered 12 credit hours; in the summer term, it might be 9 credit hours. If the classes you are taking are not on the credit system, full time is considered 20 classroom hours per week.
- To qualify for TUI under the Dislocated Worker program, the Employment Department or one of its partners must certify you as a dislocated worker.
- To qualify for TUI under the Economically Distressed Worker program, an individual must be determined by the Employment Department to have worked and received wages less than 110% of the states minimum wage during the base year of the individual's regular UI claim. The training you attend must be related to an occupation or skill which has been determined to be in high demand by the Employment Department. The high demand occupation must pay at least 110% of the states minimum wage.
- The TUI program does not pay for your training. Partners of the Employment Department, located at our WorkSource Oregon Centers, can sometimes assist you with funding for training.
- Once you begin attending class, you must advise your Unemployment Insurance Center.

To qualify for a Pell grant, you must be enrolled in an aid-eligible certificate or degree program. Enrollment in programs such as Adult Basic Education (ABE), General Educational Development (GED), Apprenticeships or short term training are not aid-eligible programs. If the program you are considering is not eligible for a Pell grant, you may still contact the Training Programs Unit to determine your eligibility for the TUI program.

Please be aware the Oregon Employment Department cannot pre-determine your eligibility to receive UI benefits while attending unapproved training. Should your training plan not be approved, you must meet all regular eligibility requirements in order to receive UI benefits. These requirements include being able to work, available for work, actively seeking work and willing to drop school in order to accept an offer of work.

Did Oregon send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy? Yes, we did.

If YES:

a. On what date did Oregon first send this letter? July 2009

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution? To all UI recipients, including new recipients.

All UI recipients
 New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? The initial mailing went to all claimants who were not then in a training program, had claimed one of the two most recent weeks, were not a member of a closed-shop union and were not "job attached." When we did subsequent mailings, discussed below, it was for new UI claimants who were not in a training program, were not job attached and were not members of a closed-shop union.

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time
 Repeated at repeated daily as new claims were filed.
 weekly
 monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out? We stopped mailing letters out October 1, 2012.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Claimant Name
Claimant Address
City, State and zip code

Date: _____
Claimant ID Number: _____

On May 8, 2009, President Obama announced a new program that allows many unemployed workers to take advantage of education and training opportunities without losing their unemployment compensation (UC) benefits. Studies have shown that workers with additional education and training have more secure jobs, often at higher wages. The following information will explain what kinds of education and training will qualify under this program and how you can obtain access to those opportunities. Information on how you may receive special consideration for federal financial aid to pay for job training or education is also included.

Unemployment Compensation Eligibility While Enrolled in Education and Training

If you are currently receiving UC benefits or become eligible, you may participate in a training program and still receive UC benefits if the program is one that is likely to increase your long-term employability.

Examples of approved training are:

- Programs with job skill components;
- Courses leading to general equivalency degrees, or GED;
- Courses in adult basic education;
- Language courses; or
- Other courses of study that develop job skills, including degree and certificate programs.

These types of programs are available at:

- Community Colleges;
- Public and Private institutions of higher education;
- Career and Technical Education Centers;
- Apprenticeship and Training programs;
- Education/training offered by Ben Franklin Partnership, the PA Manufacturer's Association, Industrial Resource Centers and other regional organizations;
- Other industry associations offering education/training meeting current industry standards; and
- Education/training offered through Pennsylvania's Industry Partnerships.

Please note that you do NOT need to contact the UC Service Center to verify your continued eligibility, as long as you are enrolled in the types of training referenced above. However, if you are filing for state Extended Benefits, or EB, the UC Service Center will need information about your training program in order to exempt you from the work search requirements for EB.

(Over)

Financial Assistance, Education and Training Opportunities

For assistance in identifying potential education and training opportunities, you may log onto www.pacareerlink.state.pa.us or visit your local PA CareerLink office or institution of higher education. For assistance in finding your local PA CareerLink Office, call (866) 858-2753. Also, in a joint effort, the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Labor have created a single website, www.opportunity.gov, where you can find helpful information.

The Federal Pell Grant and other types of financial aid may be available to help cover educational and training expenses at eligible postsecondary institutions. Federal Pell Grants are available for students who are enrolled in certificate or degree programs at colleges and universities, as well as many trade and technical schools. Even if you do not qualify for a Federal Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other types of financial aid.

In order for your eligibility to be determined, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. Staff at Pennsylvania colleges, career schools and local PA CareerLink offices can help you apply for the Federal Pell Grant and other federal financial aid. The FAFSA application is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov, or you can request a paper copy by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243). While you will need to initially report last year's income – 2008 – when submitting the FAFSA, your school may review your eligibility to reflect your current circumstances.

Additionally, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, or PHEAA, provides tools and resources to help you prepare, plan and pay for higher education. Information to guide you through the financial aid process is available online at www.PHEAA.org. PHEAA is also responsible for the administration of the Pennsylvania State Grant and other state-created student financial aid programs. Complete details about these programs are available on their website.

Training grants are also available for unemployed workers through PA CareerLinks. Staff at the PA CareerLinks can also assist you with a host of services, including aptitude and interest assessments, understanding high demand occupations in your area, resume preparation, and helping you select training and education opportunities likely to lead to good careers.

I urge you to consider taking advantage of these new opportunities for education and training now available to unemployed workers.

Be sure to take this letter with you to the school you select. For the next 90 days it confirms that you are a UC beneficiary. While it does not guarantee you a Federal Pell Grant, your school will use this letter to review your eligibility. After 90 days, or in the event you lose this letter, you should contact your UC Service Center and they will send you an updated letter.

Despite a struggling national economy, we have an opportunity to improve workers' skills and lay the foundation for a stronger economy in the future. I encourage you to consider this opportunity.

Sandi Vito

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandi Vito". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Secretary, DLI

Did Pennsylvania send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell Grant initiative on May 8, 2009? YES Would you please send us a copy? SEE COPY ATTACHED

If YES:

- a. On what date did Pennsylvania first send this letter? JUNE/JULY 2009
- b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?
X All UI recipients
__ New UI recipients
- c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received this letter? NO
- d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

X One time

__ Repeated at

__ weekly

__ monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

__ Yes __ No

If no, when were the last letters sent out? JUNE/JULY 2009. Replacement letters were made available to PA's UC Service Centers to issue to claimants, as needed.

Did Rhode Island send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy?

If YES:

a. On what date did Rhode Island first send this letter? July 31, 2009

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients We piloted a first mailing on the above date to a percentage of the claimants and then noticed the entire claim population shortly afterward.

New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? All new claims

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time

Repeated at all new UI recipients

weekly

monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

In addition, would you please provide the following tabular information on UI recipients in your state by week for 2009 and 2010: a. New claimants with approved training exemptions, b. Continuing claimants with approved training exemptions, c. Number of UI recipients receiving Pell grants.

We do not have a mechanism to count Pell Grant approvals separate from all other approved training approvals for 2009 and 2010.

PO Box 995
1550 Gadsden Street
Columbia, SC 29202
www.dew.sc.gov



Nikki R. Haley
Governor

Abraham J. Turner
Executive Director

**NOTICE
PELL GRANT INFORMATION**

If you are receiving Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits, you will receive special consideration for Pell Grant financial aid to pay for job training or education. You may also be able to continue receiving benefits while enrolled. Studies have shown that workers with more education and training have better job security and earn higher wages.

Federal Pell Grant scholarships covering up to \$5,350 **in education and training expenses** may be available for individuals meeting eligibility requirements. Pell Grants are accepted at nearly all universities and community colleges, and many trade and technical schools.

The Departments of Education and Labor have created a single web site, www.opportunity.gov, where you can find helpful information and apply for a Pell Grant. An application is also available at www.fafsa.gov, or by calling 1-800-4FEDAID (1-800-433-3243).

In addition, the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce Centers are located throughout the state that can assist you in finding training and employment opportunities.

You may visit www.dew.sc.gov for more information on services available from SCDEW or visit your nearest One-Stop Workforce Center or call your local Workforce Investment Board.

If you enroll in school or training, you must contact your workforce center and provide detailed information on the training. **We encourage individuals to participate in job training, however you should know that only approved training programs waive the requirement that you must be seeking and available for full-time work to continue receiving weekly unemployment benefits.**

While our economy is struggling, we have an opportunity to improve workers' skills and lay the foundation for a stronger economic future. You are encouraged to seek training and job opportunities. Please contact SCDEW for more information in this and other workforce development programs available in South Carolina.

Did South Carolina send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy as a pdf attachment to email or by regular mail?

Yes, see attached.

If YES:

- a. On what date did South Carolina first send this letter? Late 2009
b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients
 New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? The letter was included in a packet of information sent to all claimants who filed an initial claim. Beginning in August 2013 this information is no longer mailed but is available in PDF as part of the claimant information on our MyBenefits web portal after filing an initial claim and on our agency website under claimant information.

- d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time
 Repeated at

weekly
 monthly interval
 AS NEEDED when claimants file

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

Did South Dakota send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy? **Yes**
If YES:

a. On what date did South Dakota first send this letter? **May 26, 2009**

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients

New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter?

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time

Repeated at

weekly

monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

Pell Grants, Training Assistance, and TWC-Approved Training

This letter is to inform you that unemployed workers who are receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits may be eligible for federal financial aid, such as Pell Grants, that can be used to pay for job training or education. It does not affect your ongoing UI eligibility requirements and is not a guarantee of financial assistance. It is intended to advise you of reemployment services available and the potential for education or training assistance.

Pell Grants are needs-based, and your eligibility for them depends on the total income of your family. Pell Grants cover up to \$5,550 in degree-related education and training expenses. The grants are accepted at most universities, community colleges, and trade or technical schools. Even if you are not eligible for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other types of financial aid. Go to www.opportunity.gov for more information.

Please remember that **entering training does not increase the amount of benefits you receive** - if this is your only source of income, consider the remaining amount of UI benefits you have available before entering training.

Staff at your nearest Texas Workforce Solutions office can help you with your reemployment and training efforts, like identifying financial resources, including Pell Grants, to pay for training.

If you are interested in pursuing federal financial aid opportunities, here are the steps to take:

- **Apply to an education or training program and apply for financial aid.** Texas Workforce Solutions and local colleges can help you apply for a Pell Grant and other federal financial aid. An application is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov or by calling 1-800-4FEDAID (1-800-433-3243). Please be aware that Texas Workforce Solutions and Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) UI staff do not review or approve Pell Grant applications.
- **Take this letter, along with a document proving that you are a UI claimant, to the school you select.** *While receiving UI does not guarantee you a Pell Grant*, your school will use this information when determining your eligibility. Documents that prove you are a UI claimant include:
 - * the Statement of Potential Benefit Amounts, mailed when you applied for benefits;
 - * the Unemployment Insurance Information cover letter, enclosed with this letter; or
 - * a printout from TWC's Internet Claim and Payment Status at ui.texasworkforce.org.

Enrollment in TWC-approved training will exempt you from your requirement to be available for, seek, and apply for suitable work. **Unless TWC approves your training, you must actively seek work and meet all availability requirements to continue receiving UI benefits while you are enrolled in education or training.** Workforce Solutions staff can approve your training and exempt you from work search.

To continue receiving UI benefits while in training, and be exempt from your work search requirements, Texas Workforce Solutions staff will assess your current skills. They will check for job openings you qualify for without additional training. If there are not any jobs, you may be eligible for TWC-approved training for occupations that have ongoing openings. All decisions about training and UI benefits will be made in accordance with current state laws and direction from the Commission.

Last year, the Texas workforce system assisted nearly 1.8 million job seekers like you with all types of reemployment and training services, including developing job search skills, enhancing resumes, practicing interviewing, and networking opportunities with local employers. TWC strongly encourages you to take advantage of the services and resources at your local Texas Workforce Solutions office.

Did Texas send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8, 2009? **Yes**

Would you send us a copy? **Attached**

If YES:

a. On what date did Texas first send this letter? **On November 4, 2009, TWC began mailing letters to unemployed individuals advising them of potential training opportunities and availability for federal Pell Grants.**

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients of just new recipients at the time of distribution?
 All UI recipients
 New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter?
**November 2, 2009, TWC began mailing Pell Grant letters to claimants who applied for unemployment benefits between May 10, 2009, and November 1, 2009. This was a special mailing.
After November 2009, TWC continued to mail the Pell Grant letters to individuals who applied for benefits. The letter continued to be a special mailing.
On April 8, 2010, TWC modified programming to include the Pell Grant letter in the packet of information sent to claimants at the time an initial claim was processed. Since April 8, 2010, TWC has included the Pell Grant letter in the initial claim packet.**

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time
 Repeated at daily intervals. The letter is included in the initial claim packet, which are mailed five days a week.
 weekly
 monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

Please provide comments about whether the initiative was successful or not:

We didn't establish or track any outcomes for this initiative. However, we believe that it increased traffic to our career one-stop centers where claimants received additional information about training and education opportunities as well as job-search assistance services.



DATE MAILED: 01/01/04

Luzyolanda Echezzeri-Lacayo
111 One Street
APT 3
Vancouver, British Columbia, 777 777, Canada

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNEMPLOYED WORKERS

President Obama recently announced individuals getting unemployment insurance (UI) benefits would receive a special consideration for financial aid to pay for job training or education. Under limited circumstances you may be able to keep UI benefits while enrolled.

Federal Pell Grant scholarships are awarded based on financial need and other factors and cover up to \$5,350 annually in education and training expenses. They are accepted at nearly all universities, community colleges, and trade and technical schools. Pell Grants are available only to individuals in an undergraduate degree or certificate program, however students who already have an undergraduate degree cannot receive a Pell Grant to obtain another undergraduate degree. Even if you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other educational assistance that may lead to more secure jobs and higher wages.

The Departments of Education and Labor have created a single web site, www.opportunity.gov with helpful information. If you are interested in pursuing these educational and training opportunities:

- * Decide what education or training meets your needs. Visit your local university, community college or trade and technical school, or a Department of Workforce Services (DWS) Employment Center for help in identifying potential education and training opportunities. A complete list of all DWS Employment Centers is located on the back of this letter.

- * Individuals interested in applying for a Pell Grant must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov or by calling 1-800-433-3243. While you will need to report last year's income when applying, your school can adjust your eligibility to reflect your current financial circumstances. Colleges or DWS Employment Centers have resource centers to help you apply for Pell Grant scholarships and other federal financial aid.

- * Take this letter with you when you apply. It is valid for 90 days and confirms you are a UI beneficiary, and by definition a dislocated worker. While this letter does not guarantee you a Pell Grant, your school will use it to evaluate your eligibility. If you lose this letter, or your 90 days has expired, you may provide alternative evidence you are receiving UI, such as your Unemployment Insurance Monetary Determination of Benefits or by going to jobs.utah.gov/ui, clicking "Filing for Unemployment Benefits", selecting "Current Claim Status".

- * It is important to note that participation in an education or training program may impact your continued eligibility to receive UI benefits. The DWS Employment Centers can help determine what training may be appropriate for your individual circumstances. Generally, DWS-approved training programs will allow you to remain eligible to receive UI benefits. Approved enrollment does not add to your benefits.

This letter only applies to you if you are planning on attending school or training. If you have any questions you may contact the UI Claims Center at (801)526-4400 Salt Lake/South Davis, (801)612-0877 Weber/North Davis, (801)375-4067 Utah County, (888)848-0688 Balance of State or Out of State.

STATE EMPLOYMENT CENTERS

American Fork	751 East Quality Dr #100	(801) 492-4500
Beaver	875 North Main	(435) 438-5498
Blanding	544 North 100 East	(435) 678-1400
Brigham City	1050 South 500 West	(435) 734-4060
Cedar City	176 East 200 North	(435)865-6530
Clearfield	1290 East 1450 South	(801)776-7800
Delta	44 South 350 East	(435)864-3860
Emery County	550 West Hwy 29	(435)381-6100
Fillmore	55 West 100 North	(435)743-5304
Heber City	69 North 600 West, Ste C	(435)654-6520
Junction	550 North Main	(435)577-2443
Kanab	468 East 300 South	(435)644-8910
Loa	18 South Main	(435)836-2406
Logan	446 North 100 West	(435)792-0300
Manti	55 South Main #3	(435)835-0720
Midvale	7292 South State St	(801)567-3800
Moab	457 Kane Creek Blvd	(435)719-2600
Monticello	16 East 300 South	(435)587-2015
Nephi	625 North Main	(435)623-1927
Ogden	480 27th Street	(801)626-0300
Panguitch	665 North Main	(435)676-8893
Park City	1846 Prospector Ave	(435)649-8451
Price	475 West Price River Dr #300	(435)636-2300
Provo	1550 North 200 West	(801)342-2600
Richfield	115 East 100 South	(435)893-0000
Roosevelt	140 West 425 South 330-13	(435)722-6500
Roy	1951 West 5400 South	(801)776-7200
Salt Lake Downtown	158 South 200 West	(801)524-9000
Salt Lake Metro	720 South 200 East	(801)536-7000
Salt Lake So County	5735 South Redwood Rd	(801)269-4700
South Davis	763 West 700 South W.Cross	(801)298-6600
Spanish Fork	1185 North Chappel Drive	(801)794-6600
St George	162 North 400 East Bldg B	(435)674-5627
Tooele	305 North Main, Ste 100	(435)833-7310
Vernal	1050 West Market Dr	(435)781-4100
West Valley	2750 South 5600 West Ste A	(801)840-4400

Our interest is in understanding how Utah responded to this guidance. In particular, we are interested in whether Utah sent a letter, the associated timing of the mailing, and the population of UI recipients targeted to receive such communication. We are also hoping that your office may be able to share with us some basic tabular information on UI claimants and the incidence of approved training exemptions over time. Our questions follow below:

Did Utah send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? **Yes** Would you please send us a copy? **Yes**
If YES:

a. On what date did Utah first send this letter? **June 24, 2009**

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients

New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? **All active UI Claimants were initially sent letters, after this mass mailing only new claimants were sent letters.**

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?
 One time

Repeated at **Daily**

weekly

monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes

No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

In addition, would you please provide the following tabular information on UI recipients in your state by week for 2009 and 2010: a. New claimants with approved training exemptions, b. Continuing claimants with approved training exemptions, c. Number of UI recipients receiving Pell grants. **See attached**

Federal Pell Grant Information

This letter is to advise you of an exciting new opportunity for education and training now available to unemployed workers. You may now be eligible for up to \$5,350.00 in federal Pell Grants to assist you in educational and training expenses as a result of the May 8, 2009 announcement made by President Obama.

In that important announcement the President stated that workers who are getting unemployment insurance (UI) benefits will receive special consideration for financial aid to pay for job training or education and may also be able to keep UI benefits while enrolled, **provided prior approval has been requested and received by the Vermont Department of Labor (VDOL)**; refer to reverse side of this notice for further information on this approval process. Studies have shown that workers with more education and training have more secure jobs and higher wages.

Federal Pell Grant scholarships must be used towards a degree and when awarded, may cover up to \$5,350.00 in education and training expenses. They are available at all Vermont colleges and other trade and technical schools. Even if you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other financial aid at those institutions.

Applying for financial aid and finding educational and training opportunities is not difficult. If you are interested in pursuing these opportunities, here are the steps you should take:

1. Decide what type of training best meets your needs. Need some help with this?
 - The U.S. Departments of Education and Labor have created a single web site, www.opportunity.gov, where you can find helpful information. Additional information about training and careers can also be found at www.careeronestop.org; or
 - Go to a VDOL Resource Center for help in identifying potential education and training opportunities. A list of VDOL's Regional Centers is provided on the reverse side of this notice; or
 - Visit the college or trade/technical school you hope to attend.
2. Apply for a federal Pell Grant by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
 - If you have decided which college you are attending, the financial aid office there will help you apply for the Pell Grant and other financial aid.
 - You may also contact the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation at 1-800-642-3177 and on the web at www.vsac.org. An application is also available at www.fafsa.gov or by calling 1-800-4FEDAID.
 - If you are not sure what college you want to attend, a VDOL Resource Center near you will be able to assist.

(Continued on reverse)

Please note: Although you will need to report last year's income on the FAFSA form when applying, your school can adjust your eligibility to reflect your current circumstances by providing a copy of this letter to the school you select. For the next 90 days, it confirms that you are an unemployment insurance beneficiary. While it does not guarantee you a Pell Grant, your school will use this letter to adjust your eligibility. After 90 days, or if you lose this letter, you may provide alternative evidence that you are currently receiving unemployment insurance by going to www.labor.vt.gov and clicking on "Unemployment Insurance – Claimant Application" link located in the green box on the left hand side of every VDOL web page. Once you sign into the claimant application you may print your current claim information. If you do not have internet access, you may visit your local VDOL Resource Center to use a computer or call the Claimant Assistance line at 1-877-214-3332.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION related to YOUR Unemployment Insurance benefits:

If you are still receiving UI benefits, if/when you receive approval for a Pell Grant, **you must call the Unemployment Claims Center Claimant Assistance line at 1-877-214-3332**, at which time you will be provided further instructions.

If you receive a Pell Grant to help with school expenses, your unemployment benefit eligibility will not be denied simply because you are enrolled in school or training, as long as you have contacted the Unemployment Claims Center Claimant Assistance line and taken the necessary steps in advance as instructed above.

While our economy is struggling, we have an opportunity to improve workers' skills and lay the foundation for a stronger economy in the future. We hope this information will give you some helpful information and encouragement to continue your education and training.

Please carefully consider this opportunity. If you need further information about this opportunity, please refer to the information contained within, information posted on our website at <http://labor.vermont.gov/Workers/Unemployed/TrainingOpportunities/tabid/1602/Default.aspx>, or visit your nearest VDOL Resource Center.

Vermont Department of Labor
Unemployment Insurance and Wages Division

Below is a list of VDOL's 6 Regional Centers. VDOL also has 6 satellite offices. To learn more about a potential satellite office nearer to you, please call the Regional Center closest to you.

Central Vermont
McFarland State Office Building
5 Perry Street, Suite 200
Barre, VT 05641
802-476-2600

Southern Vermont
200 Asa Bloomer Building
Rutland, VT 05701
802-786-5837

Southeast Vermont
56 Main Street, Suite 101
Springfield, VT 05156
802-885-2167

Southwest Vermont
150 Veterans memorial Dr, Suite 2
Bennington, VT 05201
802-442-6376

Northeast Vermont
1197 Main Street, Suite 1
St. Johnsbury, 05819
802-748-3177

Northwest Vermont
63 Pearl Street
Burlington, VT 05401
802-863-7676

Barr and Turner "Understanding Enrollment Responses Among UI Recipients"
University of Virginia
Monroe Hall
McCormick Rd, Room 237
Charlottesville, VA 22903

As you may know, the Department of Labor issued guidance on May 8, 2009:

"To strongly encourage states to: (1) broaden their definition of approved training for Unemployment Insurance (UI) beneficiaries during economic downturns, (2) notify UI beneficiaries of their potential eligibility for Pell Grants and other student aid, and (3) help individuals apply for Pell Grants through One-Stop Career Centers."²

Did Vermont send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy?

If YES:

Yes

a. On what date did Vermont first send this letter?

August 20, 2009

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients that received payment for & subsequent to w/e 8/8/09

New UI recipients that established a new initial claim on or after August 18, 2009

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? No

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time
 Repeated at daily for all new initial claims
 weekly
 monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

Please provide comments about whether the initiative was successful or not:

In general the distribution of the Pell notification letter assisted in the flow of claimants utilizing VDOL Workforce Development offices.

² <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL21-08acc.pdf>



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

P.O. Box 1358

Richmond, Virginia 23218



IMPORTANT NOTICE TO

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS RECIPIENTS

In May 2009, it was announced that individuals filing for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits may receive special consideration for Pell Grant financial aid to pay for job training or education. Some UI benefit recipients **may** also be able to continue receiving benefits while enrolled. Studies have shown that workers with more education and training have better job security and earn higher wages.

Federal Pell Grant scholarships covering up to \$5,350.00 in education and training expenses may be available for individuals meeting eligibility requirements. Pell Grants are accepted at nearly all universities and community colleges, and many trade and technical schools. Even if you don't qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other aid.

Pell Grant Information

The U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Labor have created a single web site, www.opportunity.gov, where you can find helpful information and apply for a Pell Grant. An application is also available at www.fafsa.ed.gov, or by calling 1-800-4FEDAID. While you will need to report last year's income when applying, your school can adjust your eligibility to reflect your current circumstances. Colleges or One-Stop Career Centers can also help you apply for Pell Grant scholarships and other federal financial aid.

Where To Go For Information: One- Stops, Community Colleges or VEC

Decide what type of training best meets your needs. You may want to visit www.careeronestop.org or visit your local community college at www.vccs.edu/ for help in identifying potential education and training opportunities. To locate the nearest One-Stop Career Center, you may call the toll free number: 1-877-US-2-JOBS (1-877-872-5627) for assistance or visit www.servicelocator.org and enter your zip code to locate the Centers in your area.

Continued Unemployment Benefits Eligibility

Please contact the Virginia Employment Commission's Customer Contact Center at 1-866-832-2363 or VEC staff in a local Workforce Services Center in advance of enrolling, to ensure that you can continue to receive unemployment benefits while enrolled in the program you chose. Currently, it is not every training program that excuses you from the requirement that you must continue to seek employment and remain available for work in order to receive unemployment benefits. **We encourage individuals to participate in job training however you should know that only approved training programs waive the requirements as outlined below.**

In order for approval of training to be considered by the Commission, other than that under the Trade Act, Section 134 of the Workforce Investment Act or Section 2296, the following outlines current Virginia law:

- A. Training shall be approved for an eligible claimant under the provisions of Section 60.2-613 of the Code of Virginia *only if* the Commission finds that:
- The prospect for continuing employment for which the claimant is qualified by training and experience are minimal and are not likely to improve in the foreseeable future in the locality in which he resides or is claiming benefits;
 - The proposed training course is vocational or technical training or retraining in schools or classes that are conducted as programs designed to prepare an individual for gainful employment in the occupation for which the training is applicable. The training course shall require a minimum of 30 hours attendance each week;
 - The proposed training has been approved by an appropriate accrediting agency or, if none exists in the state, the training complies with quality and supervision standards established the Commission, or is licensed by an agency of the state in which given;
 - The claimant has the required qualifications and aptitude to complete the course successfully;
 - The training does not include programs of instruction, which are primarily intended to lead toward a baccalaureate or higher degree from an institution of higher education.
- B. Benefits may be paid to an otherwise eligible claimant while he is attending training only if the Commission finds that the claimant is enrolled in and regularly attending the course of instruction approved for him by the Commission.
- C. Be sure to take this letter with you to the school you select. For the next 90 days, it confirms that you are an unemployment insurance beneficiary. While it does not guarantee you a Pell Grant, your school will use this letter to adjust your eligibility. After 90 days, or if you lose this letter you may provide alternative evidence that you are currently receiving unemployment insurance benefits to include your monetary determination letter sent to you from the Virginia Employment Commission.

In addition, Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) staff is located in Workforce Services and One Stop Career Centers located throughout the state that can assist you in finding training and employment opportunities. You may also visit www.vawc.virginia.gov or more information on services.

While our economy is struggling, we have an opportunity to improve workers' skills and lay the foundation for a stronger economic future. You are encouraged to seek training and job opportunities under the guidelines noted above.

Barr and Turner "Understanding Enrollment Responses Among UI Recipients"
University of Virginia
Monroe Hall
McCormick Rd, Room 237
Charlottesville, VA 22903

As you may know, the Department of Labor issued guidance on May 8, 2009:

"To strongly encourage states to: (1) broaden their definition of approved training for Unemployment Insurance (UI) beneficiaries during economic downturns, (2) notify UI beneficiaries of their potential eligibility for Pell Grants and other student aid, and (3) help individuals apply for Pell Grants through One-Stop Career Centers."²

Did Virginia send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy?

If YES:

a. On what date did Virginia first send this letter?

July 11, 2009

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients
 New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter?

No

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time
 Repeated at
 weekly
 monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

Please provide comments about whether the initiative was successful or not:

Please see attachment

² <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL21-08acc.pdf>



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Virginia Employment Commission

July 3, 2013

Professor Sarah E. Turner
Department of Economics
University of Virginia
Post Office Box 400182
Charlottesville, VA 22904

This letter is being sent along with the questionnaire dated June 11, 2013. In that document you requested a copy of the letter that we are sending to individuals receiving unemployment insurance. A copy of this letter is also being included as part of this communication.

The VEC began mailing letters to all individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits on July 11, 2009. Letters are mailed at the same time claimants receive their first payment of UI benefits. The letters provide information on Pell Grants and how to apply for them. Claimants are also given information so that they can contact career centers for additional services. We continue to mail notices to all UI recipients

The questionnaire asks for comments about whether this initiative was successful or not. I can report that over the last four years all individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits have been provided with information on the availability of Pell Grants. I cannot, however determine the number of individuals who applied for a Pell Grant as a result of that communication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William O. Walton Jr.", written over a horizontal red line.

William O. Walton Jr.
Virginia Employment Commission
Unemployment Insurance Director
804-786-3004
William.Walton@vec.virginia.gov

Did Washington send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy? **Yes. A copy of the letter is attached.**

If YES:

a. On what date did Washington first send this letter? **August 3, 2009**

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution? **All current claimants – at that time.**

All UI recipients
 New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? **No**

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time
 Repeated at
 weekly
 monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

In addition, we would be grateful for any additional comments your office may be able to share about the implementation of this initiative and its effect on skills acquisition and re-employment.

Washington did not track this as a separate initiative, therefore, we have no outcome data to share. However, Washington's one-stop system has developed a robust system for linking program participants with community & technical colleges to pursue all forms of financial aid (including Pell grants). This system facilitates the leveraging of financial aid, program resources (e.g.: Individual Training Accounts funded under WIA & tuition support provided under the State's Worker Retraining program) and Unemployment Insurance (as the income support) for the benefit of dislocated workers. As a result, Washington is able to produce consistently high training completion and re-employment rates.

Dear Claimant:

I am writing to urge you to consider taking advantage of new opportunities for education and training available now to unemployed workers.

On May 8, 2009, President Obama announced that workers like you who are getting unemployment insurance (UI) benefits will receive special consideration for financial aid to pay for job training or education. Studies have shown that workers with more education and training have more secure jobs and higher wages.

Should you successfully apply for and receive training under this program you will retain your full entitlement to UI benefits. Work search requirements will be waived while in approved training. However, this program does not entitle you to additional weeks of UI benefits.

Federal Pell Grant scholarships cover up to \$5,350 in education and training expenses. They are accepted at nearly all universities and community colleges and many trade and technical schools. Even if you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other aid.

Applying for financial aid and finding training are not difficult. The Departments of Education and Labor have created a single web site, www.opportunity.gov, where you can find helpful information. If you are interested in pursuing these opportunities, here are steps you should take:

Decide what type of training best meets your needs. You may want to visit your local community college or WorkForce West Virginia One Stop Center for assistance from a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) case manager to identify potential education and training opportunities. If you have completed your FAFSA application for the upcoming school year, please provide the WIA case manager with a copy of your Student Aid Report (SAR). To locate the nearest WorkForce West Virginia One Stop Center you may call the toll free number at 1-800-252-5627 for assistance or visit www.workforcewv.org.

Colleges or WorkForce West Virginia One Stop Centers can help you apply for Pell Grant scholarships and other financial aid. An application is also available at www.fafsa.ed.gov or by calling 1-800-4FEDAID. While you will need to report last year's income when applying, your school can adjust your eligibility to reflect your current circumstances.

Be sure to take this letter with you to the school you select. For the next 90 days, it confirms that you are an unemployment insurance beneficiary. While it does not guarantee you a Pell Grant, your school will use this letter to adjust your eligibility. After 90 days, or if you lose this letter, you may provide alternative evidence that you are currently receiving unemployment insurance, such as your most recent continued claim form.

While our economy is struggling, we have an opportunity to improve workers' skills and lay the foundation for a stronger economy in the future. I encourage you to carefully consider this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell L. Fry", written in a cursive style.

Russell L. Fry
Acting Executive Director

RLF/rab

Did West Virginia send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy?

YES, copy attached.

a. On what date did West Virginia first send this letter?

Letters were mailed to 45,517 UI claimants, starting July 15, 2009 and continuing over the next several days.

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients

New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter? No.

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

Yes, it was a one-time mailing for the 45,517 letters. However, the letters have been continuing to go out and are mailed to each individual that files a new claim shortly after the new claim has been established.

In addition, would you please provide the following tabular information on UI recipients in your state by week for 2009 and 2010: a. New claimants with approved training exemptions, b. Continuing claimants with approved training exemptions, c. Number of UI recipients receiving Pell grants.

West Virginia does not capture the data necessary to produce the requested statistical data. Our system does not maintain claims longer than three years so the entire year of 2010 is no longer available as well.

UI Claimant
201 E. Washington Ave.
Madison, WI 53707

I am writing to urge you to consider taking advantage of new opportunities for education and training available now to unemployed workers.

On May 8, President Obama announced that workers like you who are getting unemployment insurance (UI) benefits will receive special consideration for financial aid to pay for job training or education. Federal Pell Grant scholarships cover up to \$5,350 in education and training expenses. Even if you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other educational aid.

Applying for financial aid and finding training are not difficult. The United States Departments of Education and Labor have created a single web site, www.opportunity.gov, where you can find helpful information. If you are interested in pursuing these opportunities, here are the steps you should take:

1. Decide what type of training best meets your needs. You may want to visit www.wisconsinjobcenter.org or your local educational institution or Job Center for help in identifying potential education and training opportunities. To locate the nearest Job Center, you may call the toll free number: 1-888-258-9966 for assistance or visit www.wisconsinjobcenter.org
2. Apply for education or training support. Educational institutions can assist you in applying for a Pell Grant or other aid. An application is also available at www.fafsa.gov or by calling 1-800-4FEDAID. Though you will need to report last year's income when applying, your school can adjust your eligibility to reflect your current circumstances. You may take this letter with you to the school you select as proof that you are currently an unemployment insurance recipient. While it does not guarantee you a Pell Grant, your school will use this letter to adjust your eligibility for financial aid. More information about of your claim is available at www.unemployment.wisconsin.gov. Just click on "view your claim information". This information can be printed out and may also be of use in working with the educational institution you choose.
3. If you qualify, call us about your continued UI eligibility. Just call **1-888-393-1331, a special Wisconsin number** established to provide information concerning your continued eligibility for UI benefits while enrolled in the program you have chosen. Not every training program excuses you from the requirement that you must seek and be available for work in order to receive unemployment benefits.

To help you in considering training options, here is a summary of programs that will allow you to continue receiving UI benefits while you are enrolled in a training program:

- Training under the Trade Readjustment Act (TAA Training)
- Training under Title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) for Dislocated Workers
- Training programs administered by the Department of Workforce Development for the training of unemployed workers that were in existence on October 1, 2003. The programs include:
 - Job Center programs

- Apprenticeships through the Division of Employment and Training (DET)
 - Wisconsin Works (W-2) training programs through the Department of Children and Families (DCF)
 - Welfare-to-Work (WtW) training programs through DCF
 - Veterans Employment & Training programs through DET
 - Vocational Rehabilitation programs through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
- If your training does **not** fall under any of the above categories the training may still be approved if specific criteria are met. **All** of the following criteria must be satisfied in order to be considered approved training:
 1. The course of study is vocational in nature
 2. The course does not grant substantial credit towards a bachelor's or higher degree
 3. You are enrolled in the training on a fulltime basis
 4. The course must be expected to increase your opportunities to obtain employment
 5. The course must be given by a school established within Wisconsin's Technical College System or by another institution approved by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
 6. You must attend regularly and make satisfactory progress

While our economy is struggling, you have an opportunity to improve your skills and lay the foundation for a stronger future. I encourage you to carefully consider this opportunity. If you have any questions about approved training, please contact us 1-888-393-1331 between the hours of 8 am and 4:00 pm, Tuesday through Friday.

Sincerely,

Roberta Gassman, Secretary
Department of Workforce Development

Did Wisconsin send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009?

Answer: Yes

a. One what date did Wisconsin first send this letter?

Answer: 6/22/2009

b. and c. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

Answer: The letter was sent to claimants that met the following criteria: We scanned database for claimants who will receive the Pell Grant Letter based on these criteria:

* Claimants required to look for work or working for a customary employer either full or part-time.

* Must have had payment date of 6/1/2009 or later.

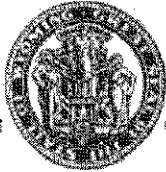
* Eliminated TRA claimants, because they have already received notice of Pell Grants through their intake session.

* Had not already received a letter, based on a TISQ message.

* Eliminated claimants who had reported that they have received a BA degree or higher.

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009.

Answer: We identified 104,000 claimants that met the above criteria. We began mailing letters on 6/22/2009, and did so on a weekly basis through 1/8/2011.



THE STATE OF WYOMING

DAVE FREUDENTHAL
GOVERNOR

Department of Employment

P.O. BOX 2768
CASPER, WY 82602

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DIVISION

(307) 235-3200

«Claimant Name»
«Claimant Address»
«City, St, Zip»

May 19, 2009

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNEMPLOYED WORKERS

On May 8, President Obama announced individuals getting unemployment insurance (UI) benefits will receive special consideration for financial aid to pay for job training or education, and may also be able to keep UI benefits while enrolled.

Federal Pell Grant scholarships are awarded based on financial need and other factors and cover up to \$5,350 in education and training expenses. They are accepted at nearly all universities and community colleges, and many trade and technical schools. Even if you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other educational assistance.

Applying for financial aid and finding training is not difficult. The Departments of Education and Labor have created a single web site, www.opportunity.gov with helpful information. If you are interested in pursuing these opportunities:

- Decide what education or training meets your needs. Visit www.careeronestop.org, your local community college, or a One-Stop Career Center for help in identifying potential education and training opportunities. To locate the nearest One-Stop Career Center, call the toll free number 1-877-US-2-JOBS for assistance, or visit www.servicelocator.org.
- Colleges or One-Stop Career Centers can help you apply for Pell Grant scholarships and other federal financial aid. An application is also available at www.fafsa.gov or by calling 1-800-4FEDAID. While you will need to report last year's income when applying, your school can adjust your eligibility to reflect your current circumstances.
- Take this letter with you when you apply. It is valid for 90 days and confirms you are a UI beneficiary. While this letter does not guarantee you a Pell Grant, your school will use it to evaluate your eligibility. If you lose this letter, or the 90 days has expired, you may provide alternative evidence you are receiving UI, such as your Unemployment Insurance Monetary Determination of Benefits.

Not every education or training program excuses you from the requirements you must meet to receive UI benefits. Please contact the Wyoming Claims Center at 307-473-3789 before enrolling in school or training to ensure that you can continue to receive UI benefits while in the program you have chosen. Approved enrollment does not add to your UI benefits.

This letter only applies to you if you are planning on attending school or training.

Barr and Turner "Understanding Enrollment Responses Among UI Recipients"
University of Virginia
Monroe Hall
McCormick Rd, Room 237
Charlottesville, VA 22903

As you may know, the Department of Labor issued guidance on May 8, 2009:

"To strongly encourage states to: (1) broaden their definition of approved training for Unemployment Insurance (UI) beneficiaries during economic downturns, (2) notify UI beneficiaries of their potential eligibility for Pell Grants and other student aid, and (3) help individuals apply for Pell Grants through One-Stop Career Centers."²

Did Wyoming send a letter or other communication to individuals receiving unemployment insurance in response to the federal Pell grant initiative on May 8 2009? Would you please send us a copy?

If YES:

a. On what date did Wyoming first send this letter?

May 29, 2009

b. Was the letter sent to all UI recipients or just new recipients at the time of distribution?

All UI recipients
 New UI recipients

c. Were there any other criteria determining which UI recipients received the letter?

Claimants on EUC were sent the letter

d. Was this a one-time mailing or has the mailing been repeated for new UI recipients after May 2009?

One time
 Repeated at
 weekly
 monthly interval

If repeated, is this policy ongoing?

Yes No

If no, when were the last letters sent out?

January 24, 2011

Please provide comments about whether the initiative was successful or not:

No data available

² <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL21-08acc.pdf>