

## Reemployment Services (ARRA)

### Background

The American Recovery and Reemployment Act (ARRA) requires that, nationally, \$250 million of the \$400 million in Wagner-Peyser stimulus funds be used to supplement or implement reemployment services (RES) for job search and other employment-related services to UI claimants, and to support integrating employment service and UI information technology to identify and serve the needs of such claimants. Specifically, TEGL 14-08 requires that states spend 62.5 percent of their ARRA Wagner Peyser allocated funds on reemployment services.

Florida's current reemployment efforts are represented by the Priority Re-Employment Program (PREP) operational statewide, and the pilot Re-employment and Eligibility Assessment Program (REA) currently in operation in 6 regions.

Clearly, TEGL 14-08, the implementation guidance for ARRA, suggests if not mandates, a more intensive approach like the REA pilot. This approach would require a review and assessment of all UI claimants to group them by need, orient them to the services available to them, and assist them with job search, job preparation, and training as needed. Such an assessment requires the gathering of more work history and educational background information than is now required of UI claimants in Florida.

### Current Status

- The ARRA Reemployment Services Workgroup members are: Rick Beasley (RWB 23), Kim Moore (RWB 5), Susan Nelms (RWB 1), Mary Lou Reed (RWB 2), and Ed Peachey (RWB 14).
- The Workgroup has had two teleconference meetings, to date.
- The second teleconference call was held Wednesday, June 22nd. Issues discussed included:
  - Guidance
  - Extended Benefit Claimants (250,000 between July 1 and December 31<sup>st</sup>)
  - Profiling Methodology
  - RES Automation – Functionality in Version 10
  - Performance
- A WFI/AWI internal workgroup met the week of June 8<sup>th</sup> and prioritized the following action items and due dates:
  - Develop RES guidance for Front Line staff July 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Develop REA guidance as a RES strategy July 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Complete the internal steps to tag the 250,000 Extended Benefit claimants & distribute information as an EFM tip July 6-10th
  - Profiling meeting has been scheduled June 23<sup>rd</sup>
    - ❖ A profiling team meeting consisting of WFI and AWI staff met June 23<sup>rd</sup> re: status update and next steps. LMI is currently awaiting new software and servers in order to test the profiling methodology already developed by the team. –Most likely to exhaust category. Once the profiling is established for that group, the team will meet to develop a profiling methodology for additional groups.
  - Clarification of Performance Measures Ongoing
    - WFI is corresponding with USDOL for clarification of various reemployment performance measures

## Priorities

The priorities are noted above but in essence, the internal workgroup:

- Wants to send guidance out to the front line staff as soon as possible
- Provide the Regions with a list of the Extended Benefit claimants – currently about 75,000 but between July 1 and December 31, 2009, it is an estimated 250,000 claimants. Staff will be emailing only those EB claimants who apply for benefits
- Get the initial profiling group of most likely to exhaust implemented and then begin working on profiling methodologies for additional groups.
- Expand the REA Program from six regions to a total of 16. A grant application has been filed with USDOL; Florida is awaiting a response which should be forthcoming soon. On 6-30-09, USDOL indicated grant award would take another 2 to 3 weeks.
- Obtain clarification on reemployment services performance measures