

# NJ STATE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMISSION

## Commission Meeting

September 15, 2021



# SETC COMMISSION MEETING – WED, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

## **HOUSEKEEPING: ATTENDANCE, QUESTIONS AND MUTING**

**Please introduce yourself in the CHAT feature** – enter your Name and Affiliation – for attendance purposes.

Use the CHAT feature to ask questions of the presenters.

Priority will be given to Commission members' questions. We will try to address all questions during the meeting. Any remaining questions will be forwarded for further consideration after the meeting ends.

**\*Please\*** be considerate and mute your phone and/or computer microphone when others are speaking.



\* This meeting is being recorded for purposes of the minutes. \*

## SETC AGENDA: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

- Welcome – **Dennis M. Bone**, SETC Chairman
- Minutes and Chairman’s Report – **Dennis M. Bone**, SETC Chairman
- NJDOL Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Workforce Updates –
  - **Ronald Marino**, NJDOL Assistant Commissioner, Income Security
  - **Gregory Castellani**, Director of UI
  - **Hugh Bailey**, NJDOL Assistant Commissioner, Workforce
- LWDB Certifications – **Sheryl Hutchison**, SETC Deputy Executive Director  
**John Gagliano**, Governance Committee
- SCALES Convening Report – **Dr. Hal Beder**, SCALES Chairman  
**Dr. Aaron R. Fichtner**, President, NJ Council of Co. Colleges

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: DENNIS M. BONE

## NJDOL UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) UPDATES

**Ronald Marino**

NJDOL Assistant Commissioner  
Income Security

**Gregory Castellani**

NJDOL Director  
Unemployment Insurance (UI)

# SETC MEETING

Unemployment Insurance Update

September 15, 2021

# Claims Counts

- March-December 2020 – 1,914,014 claims filed
- January-August 2021 – 419,049 claims filed
- 2,333,063 total claims filed since March 2020
  - For comparison, averaged 490,000 per year pre-pandemic (2017-19)
- Total of \$33 Billion in payments issued since March 2020

# CARES Act Stimulus Programs

- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) – Federal Extension
  - 13 weeks as of 3/29/20
  - Additional 11 weeks effective 12/27/20
  - Additional 25 weeks effective 3/14/21
  - Potential of 49 additional weeks of benefits
  - Last payable week for PEUC is 9/4/21
  - 310,000 claimants currently receiving PEUC



# CARES Act Stimulus Programs

- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
  - Program for claimants not eligible for UI benefits
    - Self-employed, invalid UI claims, not eligible for UI for pandemic related reason
  - Last payable week for PUA is 9/4/21
  - WBR = to UI rate if monetarily eligible; in invalid UI claim, receive PUA minimum of \$230 per week
  - Have to verify labor market attachment since January 2019 to qualify
  - 573,000 PUA claims filed since March 2020
  - 240,000 current PUA claims receiving payment within past 4 weeks

# Count of PUA claimants by County

Atlantic		8,464
Bergen		24,140
Burlington		8,865
Camden		14,144
Cape May		1,919
Cumberland		3,719
Essex		25,355
Gloucester		6,091
Hudson		20,252
Hunterdon		1,622
Mercer		7,698
Middlesex		19,802
Monmouth		13,580
Morris		7,994
Ocean		12,583
Passaic		19,746
Salem		1,331
Somerset		5,684
Sussex		2,693
Union		14,777
Warren		1,805

# CARES Act Stimulus Programs

## PUA verification

- Any PUA claim receiving payment after 12/26/20 has to verify labor market attachment to continue to qualify for PUA
- This includes verifying any employment since January 2019 OR if no employment documenting a job offer that was cancelled due to COVID
- Sent over 340,000 emails to PUA claims to verify
- 82,000 denied for not verifying PUA
- 127,000 have been verified
- 60,000 open with no response yet
- 70,000 to still be reviewed

# CARES Act Stimulus Programs

- Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)
  - For weeks paid between 4/4/20 and 7/25/20, additional payment of \$600 for any UI/PEUC/EB week paid
  - For weeks paid between 1/2/21 and 9/4/21, additional payment of \$300 for any UI/PEUC/EB week paid
  - Must receive at least \$1 of UI/PEUC/EB payment or if full payment goes towards offsetting an overpayment to receive FPUC
  - Last payable week for FPUC is 9/4/21

# CARES Act Stimulus Programs

- State Extended Benefits (EB)
  - Extended Benefit program for claimants on UI/PEUC benefits (not eligible if on PUA)
  - Additional 13 weeks after UI/PEUC are exhausted
  - Tied to state's UI rate
  - Once PEUC ends 9/4/21, those claims will move to EB. Have to meet EB requirements to be eligible
    - Work in 20 weeks or have 40x their WBR in earnings in Base Year
    - If disqualified for MC or RSW, need to requalify with earnings of 4x their WBR after disqualification start date
  - 94,000 PEUC claimants already received and exhausted their EB entitlement

# Messaging

- Email sent to 663,000 claimants that will have no eligibility after 9/4/21 advising them of end of programs
- Sent to all PUA claimants regardless of current status and all that exhausted EB and have no further eligibility
- Email blast sent four weeks prior to end of programs

# Summary of Exhaustees

- 240,000 current PUA claimants
- 94,000 current PEUC claimants that already received EB
- Total of **334,000** claimants with no further eligibility after payment for week-ending 9/4/21

# Fraud

- Identity Theft:

Most common type of fraud

PII of individual obtained from hacked databases (T-Mobile)

Nationwide problem – international and domestic fraud schemes

Layers of fraud initiative

*ID.ME*

<https://myunemployment.nj.gov/help/contact-us/reportfraud/>



# Questions

## NJDOL WORKFORCE UPDATES

**Hugh Bailey**

NJDOL Assistant Commissioner  
Workforce

## LOCAL WDB CERTIFICATIONS – GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Summary recommendations document - provided earlier
- Two-year cycle, currently in the 2020-2022 round
- Quality assurance project, focused on continuous improvement
- SETC Policy #2020-02 approved November 17, 2020
- Submissions from Local WDBs due in February 2021
- Ongoing Review Process by SETC staff
- Small number of LWDBs also have 2018 Certification pending
- Policy and Resources online: [nj.gov/njsetc/policy/certification/](https://nj.gov/njsetc/policy/certification/)
- **Recommendations today from SETC Governance Committee**

## SCALES CONVENING REPORT

**Hal Beder, Ed.D.**

SCALES Chairman

**Aaron R. Fichtner, Ph.D.**

President

NJ Council of County Colleges

## PUBLIC COMMENT AND FINAL QUESTIONS

Audio lines will be open for public comment.

Please also use the CHAT feature to ask any final questions.





**THANK YOU**

**Next Commission Meeting:**

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

10am - 12pm

Online GoTo Meeting

[https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/  
394439821](https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/394439821)