DEPARTMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE
UI POLICY & PERFORMANCE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: September 29, 2017

Reference No.: UIPP 2017.03

TO: UI Senior Staff Directors, Career Center Field Operations Director, UITCC Directors, UITCC Managers, Area Directors, Walk-In Center Managers, and UI Staff

FROM: Jennifer Lavin, Director, UI Policy & Performance

SUBJECT: New Maximum UI Weekly Benefit Amount

The DUA Research Department has provided notification that the maximum UI weekly benefit amount to be paid to any individual whose benefit year commences on or after the first Sunday in October 2017 and prior to the first Sunday in October 2018 will be $769.00. This rate will become effective for new benefit years beginning Sunday, October 1, 2017. The new maximum benefit amount does not include any dependency allowance payable to the claimant. The new rate was calculated in accordance with Section 29 of Chapter 151A of the Massachusetts General Laws.

The new maximum rate represents a $27.00 increase from the existing maximum amount of $742.00. UI staff may encounter questions as to how the amount is calculated. Staff should answer these questions by providing the information listed below.

The rate is based on the following calculations:

- Average monthly employment (# of jobs) for the 12 months ending March 2017 (UI Contributory only): = 2,741,391
- UI Contributory payroll for the 12 months ending March 2017: $190,742,416,650.
- Average annual wage: $69,578.70
- Average weekly wage: $1,338.05
- Maximum weekly benefit amount = average weekly wage x .575 (then rounded to the next lowest dollar) $769.38 = $769.00

If you have any questions regarding the new maximum benefit amount, please contact the UI Policy and Performance Department at (617) 626-6422.