



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

MAURA HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIM DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LAUREN E. JONES
SECRETARY

KATIE DISHNICA
DIRECTOR

DUA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, September 25, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Council Attendees: Richard Marlin, John Drinkwater, Chris Carlozzi, Renee Harper, Sam Larson
EOLWD/DWD/DUA/Public Attendees: Katie Dishnica, David Gold, Josh Cutler, Lisa Hemmerle, Jeannie Pena, Corey Mescon, Ashley Thompson, John Saulnier, Jason Salgado, Laura Santiago, Rena Kottcamp, Rory MacAneny, Wendy Filosi, Samantha Houghton, Sarah Bodzinski, Mark Costello, Wendy Savary, Veronica Vivero-Condon, Jaime Margolis, Corinna Svarlien

A virtual meeting was held via Zoom.

A motion was proposed to approve the August 2025 meeting minutes.

- Motion was seconded.
- Vote on Motion – all in favor to approve.

UI Trust Fund Update

Lisa Hemmerle Director of Economic Research provided the UI Trust Fund Update. The following information relates to the September memo on the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund (“UI Trust Fund”) through August 31, 2025.

- The preliminary UI Trust Fund ending balance on 8/31 was \$2.16B
- YTD through 8/31 preliminary employer contributions were \$1.28B
- YTD through 8/31 DUA Paid \$1.65B in benefits for Regular UI for 596,567 initial and continuing claims
- In October the annual report through September will be reviewed.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/unemployment-insurance-trust-fund-uitf>

Executive Update

Katie Dishnica, Director of DUA, provided an executive update.

The first update is regarding the Weekly Benefit Amount. During this time of year DUA reviews the maximum Weekly Benefit amount to determine if an update is needed. Any changes will be published next week on mass.gov and will be effective on October 5, 2025.

The next update is regarding notices of intent and tax intercepts. The notices will begin to be issued before the next Advisory Council meeting. DUA is required to provide claimants with 60 days' notice if DUA will potentially intercept their tax refund to apply it toward an overpayment balance. Claimants can request a review, but it is limited to the overpayment amount and not the underlying reason that caused the overpayment.

The next update is regarding the three-month pilot program to close the call center on Fridays to focus on processing claims. The program has been in place for two months and has been effective, with a 28% reduction in issues.

The EMT team received the Commonwealth Equity and Governance award.

The next update is regarding identity verification requirements. USDOL changed the requirements related to Identity Verification that will alter the way we do business. As of now DUA is able to utilize USPS for identity verification, however the new guidance will change that. DUA is paying close attention to the changes and voicing our concerns.

Questions/Discussion

Question by Chris Carlozzi: On the change in benefits do you know what day that will be?

Answer by Katie Dishnica: It is typically posted on mass.gov the Friday before it is effective, 10/5 the change will be in effect.

Question by Rich Marlin: How do we count military wages when a new claim is filed?

Answer by Katie Dishnica: We have a department that handles that. If you can send an example of your specific question, we can take a look at it.

Question by Rich Marlin: I have another member who had a part time job, then quit that job to work full time with his new employer. He was then laid off from the full-time job. I know in the past that if you quit a part time job, it impacts the benefits. Is that still an issue or ongoing process?

Answer by Katie Dishnica: Send their information over so we can take a look at it.

Next meeting – October 16, 2025, 9:30AM. Please let Katie or Sara know if you are unable to attend.