



**DEPARTMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE
UI POLICY & PERFORMANCE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

Date: August 29, 2019

Rescission(s): None

Reference No.: UIPP 2019.05

TO: All Senior Staff Directors, DUA Managers, Career Center Field Operations Directors, Call Center staff

FROM: Emmy Patronick, Director of Policy and Performance

SUBJECT: Work Search requirements

1. PURPOSE:

To discuss changes implemented with respect to current Massachusetts work search requirements.

2. REFERENCES:

- Section 24 (b)
- Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012

3. BACKGROUND:

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 added language to Federal law requiring recipients of UI benefits to show they were able, available, and actively seeking work. Federal requirements allow states to adopt rules in order for claimants to meet this requirement. The Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance (MDUA) currently requires that claimants perform three work search activities in each week, on three different days.

Recently, we have reviewed our “three work search activities in each week, on three different days” requirement under Section 24 (b) to see what impact, if any, it has to assist claimants in becoming reemployed. This review included a

comparison of nine states which have a three work search activities per week requirement. None of these states require the work searches to be completed on three different days during the week. When comparing the average claim duration of Massachusetts unemployment insurance claims during the calendar year 2018, only one of the nine other states had a worse outcome.

The US Department of Labor also measures states' reemployment rate which is a percentage of UI claimants who receive a first payment in a calendar quarter and then become reemployed in the subsequent quarter. During the four quarters ending March 2019, Massachusetts achieved a 57.7% reemployment rate. None of the comparison states had lower than a 62.1% result, the highest reemployment rate being 69.5%.

Our review has found that requiring claimants to perform three work search activities on three different days of the week has minimal impact on key reemployment performance indicators.

4. **ACTION:**

Effective immediately, in order to be eligible for a weekly benefit, claimants will be required to perform three work searches in a week. The requirement to perform three work searches on three different days no longer applies.

****Please note, as this change is effective immediately, any work search issues that have been set up as of as a result of the claimant indicating they looked for work less than 3 days, may be voided.****

8. **QUESTIONS:**

Please contact the UI Policy & Performance Department at (617) 626-6422.