TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES

FROM: JANE OATES /s/
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Unemployment Insurance Interstate Benefits and Federal Programs Training Conference

1. Purpose. To announce the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Interstate Benefits and Federal Programs (IBFP) Training Conference scheduled to be held September 7-9, 2011, in St. Petersburg, Florida, and encourage state administrators to send their Interstate/Federal Program Coordinators and Interstate Connection (ICON) programmer(s) to the conference.

2. Background. Every other year, the U.S. Department of Labor (Department) partners with the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) to host the IBFP Training Conference. The conference is designed to promote cooperation among states in managing Interstate and Combined Wage Claim (CWC) operations and to promote efficient administration of the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) and the Unemployment Compensation for Ex-servicemembers (UCX) programs. The conference will also encourage effective and efficient implementation and use of the ICON network. The conference will provide workshops that will focus on integrity and promotion of proper claim filing procedures in order to identify and collect improper payments. The conference provides a forum for discussion of successful practices, current challenges, and issues related to the Interstate, CWC, UCFE, and UCX programs, as well as process improvements and innovations.

3. Logistics. NASWA, with support from the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, will host the UI IBFP Training Conference, at the Tradewinds Islands Resort in St. Petersburg, Florida. A draft agenda and detailed information about hotel reservations and meeting registration are available on NASWA’s Web site at http://www.naswa.org/.

The Department will provide $1,600 to each participating state to help cover travel costs. These funds will be added to states’ above base distribution for the third quarter.

4. Action Requested. State Administrators are encouraged to provide this information to appropriate staff.

5. Inquiries. Inquiries should be directed to the appropriate Regional Office.