

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 5-11
	DATE August 16, 2011

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
STATE WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATORS
STATE UI DIRECTORS

FROM: JANE OATES /s/
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: 2011 Unemployment Insurance (UI) Innovation, Performance, and Hall of Fame Awards

1. **Purpose.** To solicit nominations for the 2011 UI Innovation Awards and announce the upcoming presentation of the 2011 Performance Awards.
2. **Background.** Recognizing those states with outstanding performance has been an annual part of the UI system. Additionally in 2010, as part of the 75th Anniversary activities, the Department of Labor (DOL) established the UI Innovation Awards and the UI Hall of Fame to recognize the outstanding work of individuals and state UI agencies.

These awards will be presented at the 2011 UI Directors' Conference to be held October 17-20 in Providence, Rhode Island. The conference, jointly sponsored by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA), will focus on key policy issues for UI moving forward. More information can be found at: <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/uiconference/>.

3. **Awards.** At the conference, ETA will recognize states for their outstanding performance in the following categories: 1) Timely, Proper, and High-Quality Eligibility Decisions and Benefit Payments; 2) Timely and High-Quality Appeals Decisions; and 3) High-Quality Tax Operations. UI Innovation Awards will be presented to states that have made significant innovations to improve integrity, service delivery, and reemployment. Lastly, ETA may honor one or more individual(s) with a UI Hall of Fame Award for significant lifetime achievements in furthering the aims of the UI program.

Nominations for the UI Innovation Awards and UI Hall of Fame must be submitted by September 12, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. ET. Award criteria, eligibility, and the process for selecting recipients are discussed in the attached documents. As a reminder, individuals who were nominated for the UI Hall of Fame in 2010, but who were not inducted into the

Hall of Fame, do not have to be renominated to be considered in 2011. Those nominations have been retained and will be considered this year.

4. **Action Requested.** Please distribute throughout the UI community and to interested stakeholders.
5. **Inquiries.** Comments or questions about these awards should be sent to Daniel L. Hays at 202-693-3011 or hays.daniel@dol.gov. Comments and requests may also be mailed to the following address:

Office of Unemployment Insurance
Attn: UI Awards
200 Constitution Ave, N.W.
Frances Perkins Bldg. Room S-4524
Washington, DC 20210

6. **Attachments.**
Attachment A: Unemployment Insurance Hall of Fame Award
Attachment B: Unemployment Insurance Innovation Awards

Unemployment Insurance Hall of Fame Award

Award Criteria, Eligibility, and Selection

Unemployment Insurance Hall of Fame

The United States Department of Labor, Office of Unemployment Insurance, presents the Unemployment Insurance Hall of Fame award to honor one or more individual(s) or groups of individuals for significant achievements during the course of their career that further the aims of the Unemployment Insurance program.

While many individuals have long and meaningful careers in UI, this award is intended for individuals responsible for major program advancements.

As a reminder, individuals who were nominated for the UI Hall of Fame in 2010, but who were not inducted into the Hall of Fame, do not have to be renominated to be considered in 2011. Those nominations have been retained and will be considered this year.

CRITERIA

One or more of the following achievements is required for the award:

A. Promoting Legislation or Public Policy

Nominee has made important contributions to the achievement of significant Federal legislation or public policies that have improved and strengthened the Unemployment Insurance program.

B. Improved System Performance

Nominee has made significant contributions to major improvements in services to workers and/or employers or system performance in the Unemployment Insurance program.

ELIGIBILITY

Any individual or group of individuals, living or deceased, may be nominated for this award.

Note: In any year, based on the quality of nominations, the selection team may select no Hall of Fame recipient or select multiple recipients.

SELECTION

Nominations shall be reviewed by a panel of judges appointed by the Administrator of the Office of Unemployment Insurance.

HOW TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION

- Nominations must be made in writing and emailed to hays.daniel@dol.gov, hand delivered, or sent via courier (e.g. FedEx, UPS, etc.) to the following address by Monday, September 12, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. ET. (Note: Please do **not** send nominations via USPS as security measures related to USPS mail will delay delivery.)

Office of Unemployment Insurance
Attn: Hall of Fame Award
200 Constitution Ave, N.W.
Frances Perkins Bldg. Room S-4524
Washington, DC 20210

- The nomination and documentation must be in written in English or translated into English.
- The nomination must include: 1) the full name (and title, if appropriate) of each individual nominated; 2) a description of the significant legislative/policy or customer service achievement(s) for which the individual or group is nominated; and 3) the role that the individual or group played in making the achievement a reality.
- Nomination narratives must be limited to two pages.

Unemployment Insurance Innovation Awards

Award Criteria, Eligibility, and Selection

Unemployment Insurance (UI) Innovation Awards

The United States Department of Labor, Office of Unemployment Insurance, presents the Unemployment Insurance Innovation Awards to honor states for significant innovations in three categories.

CRITERIA

One winner will be chosen for each of the following three categories:

A. Integrity – Innovations to improve program integrity by reducing improper UI benefit payments or denials, preventing the avoidance of unemployment tax liability and/or misclassification of workers, and improving the collection of overpayments and tax assessments.

B. Improved Worker and Employer Services – Innovations to improve service delivery in the areas of benefit payments, claims processing, adjudication, and tax processing.

C. Reemployment – Innovations to improve the employment outcomes of individuals receiving UI.

Nominations must demonstrate outcomes achieved as a result of these innovations.

ELIGIBILITY

Any state Unemployment Insurance agency may be nominated for this award. States may nominate themselves or be nominated by another individual or entity.

Note: In any year, based on the quality of nominations, the selection team may select no recipient or may select multiple recipients.

SELECTION

Nominations shall be reviewed by a panel of judges appointed by the Administrator of the Office of Unemployment Insurance.

HOW TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION

- Nominations must be made in writing and emailed to hays.daniel@dol.gov, hand delivered, or sent via courier (e.g. FedEx, UPS, etc.) to the following address by Monday, September 12, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. ET. (Note: Please do **not** send nominations via USPS as security measures related to USPS mail will delay delivery.)

Office of Unemployment Insurance
Attn: UI Innovation Award
200 Constitution Ave, N.W.
Frances Perkins Bldg. Room S-4524
Washington, DC 20210

- The nomination and documentation must be in written in English or translated into English.
- The nomination must include: 1) the name of the state agency being nominated; 2) a description of the innovation implemented by the state to improve program integrity, worker and employer services, or reemployment; and 3) documented outcomes as a result of the innovation.
- Nomination narratives must be limited to two pages.