

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 26-14
	DATE March 19, 2015

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES

FROM: PORTIA WU /s/
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: State Unemployment Insurance (UI) Profiling Methods Training Seminar

1. **Purpose.** This notice announces and solicits nominees for a State UI Profiling Methods Training Seminar to be held May 19 - 22, 2015, in Washington, D.C.

2. **Background.** The timing of this conference coincides with the implementation of the reemployment eligibility assessment and reemployment services (REA/RES) program in Fiscal Year 2015. This program stipulates that states use existing Worker Profiling and Reemployment Services (WPRS) models to identify those claimants most likely to exhaust benefits that therefore would benefit from reemployment services. Many state models have not been kept up-to-date or use inadequate specifications that may not properly identify those most at risk of exhausting their benefits. It is important for states to periodically update models with the latest available data and to include as many relevant factors as possible to ensure that the REA/RES services are properly targeted and will thus have maximum impact.

The primary focus of this seminar is to provide the skills necessary to successfully enhance, update, and maintain the WPRS profiling models developed since the program was initially enacted in 1993. This seminar will also serve as a forum for the discussion and dissemination of those profiling practices that have proven most successful. The seminar will begin with background on WPRS models, applicable statistical techniques, and basic data analysis of categorical and continuous variables. Particular emphasis will be placed on hands-on computer use (using SPSS Statistical Software during the seminar), practical application in the REA/RES context, methods for minimizing potential statistical bias and benchmarking model performance.

The seminar will be presented by Dr. Robert D. St. Louis, Associate Professor in the Department of Decision and Information Systems at the Arizona State University College of Business in conjunction with staff from the Employment and Training Administration's (ETA) Office of Unemployment Insurance. The only prerequisite is an understanding of basic statistical concepts. Preliminary review materials are anticipated to be provided to all participants in the weeks prior to the seminar. Participants will be supplied with a training manual prepared by the instructors.

This seminar is open to State Workforce Agency and Regional Office staff. Priority in selection will be given first to staff directly involved with developing and/or updating profiling models. Second priority will be given to other personnel in statistical, actuarial or research type units (labor market information, research and statistics, etc.) who require a working knowledge of profiling. The seminar will be limited to 30 participants. ETA's National Office will select the participants and notify those selected and not selected through the Regional Offices.

3. **Schedule and Logistics.** The seminar will be held in the U.S. Department of Labor Conference Center in the Frances Perkins Building at 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. The seminar will start at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 19, and end at 12:00 p.m., Friday, May 22. Participants should arrive by Monday evening, May 18. Upon selection, participants will receive additional information regarding lodging, special arrangements, and travel instructions.
4. **Costs.** The Department recognizes the importance for state staff to attend this training conference and will provide travel costs for state staff to attend the training session, up to a maximum of \$2,500.
5. **Action Requested.** States or ETA Regional Offices wishing to send staff to the seminar should have nominees complete the attached nomination form. Please make sure that all questions on the nomination form are answered fully. Completed nomination forms may be sent to Rob Pavosevich by email at pavosevich.robert@dol.gov or by fax at 202-693-3229, no later than April 7. Only staff for whom the necessary travel funds can be secured should be nominated.
6. **Inquiries.** Direct any questions concerning the seminar to Rob Pavosevich at 202-693-2935.
7. **Attachments.**

Attachment I – Tentative Agenda
Attachment II – Nomination Form

Attachment I

TENTATIVE AGENDA
State Unemployment Insurance (UI) Profiling Methods Training Seminar
May 19-22, 2015

Tuesday

1. OUI Administrator Gay Gilbert Opening Remarks
2. Introduction and Overview of Profiling
3. The Dependent Variable and Independent Variables
4. Univariate Data Analysis Using Qualitative and Quantitative Variables
5. Variable Analysis using Cross-tabulations
6. Computer Exercise #1: Profiling Using Characteristic Screens

Wednesday

1. Overview of Model Building Considerations
2. Univariate Regression Analysis
2. Logistic Regression Analysis
3. Multivariate Regression Analysis
4. Binary Variables and Interaction Effects
5. Computer Exercise #2: Profiling Using Logistic Regression

Thursday

1. Overview of Dataset Problems
2. Variable Transformations
3. Overview of Collinearity
3. Evaluating Profiling Models
4. Computer Exercise #3: Profiling Using Large Datasets

Friday

1. Ongoing Model Evaluation
2. Non-Statistical Model Improvements
3. Evaluating Models for Changing Parameter Values

NOMINATION FORM
STATE UI PROFILING METHODS TRAINING SEMINAR

State: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____ Work Phone No.: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Work Address: _____

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Years of schooling completed: 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

Degree	Date	Major
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Other relevant course work or training specific to meeting the requirements of seminar participation. Please list class/training, skills developed and the date of completion:

WORK EXPERIENCE

Length of time developing, maintaining or updating profiling models: _____

Length of time working in UI: _____

Length of time engaged in other work in
research, statistics or related activities: _____

Describe briefly your present duties, particularly as related to this seminar:

COMPUTER AND STATISTICAL SKILLS

Do you have experience or training in the following?

Spreadsheets: Yes / No

Statistical packages: Yes / No

SPSS Statistical Package: Yes / No

Regression Analysis: Yes / No

Courses or training taken in statistics, mathematics, economics, and/or statistical packages:

RECOMMENDED BY:

Signature

Title