



# House Economic Matters Committee Briefing

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Tuesday, June 8, 2021

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# Briefing Agenda

- **Unemployment Insurance Overview**
- **Federal Benefits Update**
- **Search for Work Reinstatement**
- **Workforce Overview**
- **Questions**

# Unemployment Overview

- As of the week ending May 22, Labor has paid \$12,321,963,493 in benefits from the CARES Act, Extended Benefits, and regular unemployment insurance programs.
- Approximately 97% of all complete claims have been processed and approximately 3% of cases are pending in adjudication, which is consistent with pre-pandemic times.
- Over 89% of claims flagged and investigated have been confirmed as fraudulent.
- Unemployment Rate Decrease/ High Jobs Numbers
  - Unemployment Rate remains at 6.2%.
  - Maryland gained 3,800 jobs in the month of April
  - This is the twelfth consecutive month of job growth in Maryland. Since the beginning of 2021, Maryland has gained a total of 27,700 jobs.
  - Recovery milestone - more than 250,000 jobs re-gained since the pandemic low.
  - As of June 6, there are 141,184 unique online job postings in Maryland
    - A single job posting may advertise for multiple positions
    - Many industries utilize alternative methods of advertising, such as social media, signage and word of mouth

# Federal Benefit Packages

- Governor Hogan announced on Tuesday, June 1 that Maryland will discontinue enhanced pandemic federal unemployment benefits.
- Labor will be in constant communication with constituents regarding the end of the federal packages and the beginning of worksearch two weeks ahead of the changes.
- Claimants will no longer be able to submit new applications for the federal programs after the end date on Saturday, July 3.
  - Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
  - Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
  - Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)
  - Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation (MEUC)
- **Claimant Action Needed for Weekly Claim Certification:**
  - The last week claimants will be able to file a weekly claim certification for the four federal programs is for the week ending July 3.
  - Claimants must file their required weekly claim certification in their [BEACON 2.0 portal](#) from Sunday, July 4, to Saturday, July 10 for this final week.
- **Eligibility Determination:**
  - If a claimant is waiting to receive an eligibility determination for any of these four programs, and is determined to be eligible, the claimant will receive benefit payments owed to them for weeks of unemployment that end on or before July 3.
  - The department WILL process all claims for these programs that are received on or before July 3.

# Search for Work

- [Work Search for Unemployment Insurance Claimants](#)
  - **Reinstatement Details:**
    - Beginning the week of July 4, Labor will reinstate the standard requirement for all regular state unemployment insurance claimants to actively search for work.
    - Claimants will be required to complete three reemployment activities each week, to maintain their eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits.
  - **Examples of Reemployment Activities:**
    - There are a variety of reemployment activities that claimants can complete to satisfy the requirements and be determined eligible for benefits.
    - DWDAL now has 30 offerings that claimants can complete to satisfy this requirement, 18 of which are self-guided and 12 of which are staff-assisted.
- **Work Search's Role in Decreasing Unemployment**
  - Across the board, states which have restored work search requirements have seen improvements in employment rates and a decrease in the Unemployment Insurance Rate.

# Workforce Overview

- [Apprenticeship Programs](#)
  - **Growth Under Hogan Administration:**
    - During the COVID-19 pandemic, the demand for apprentices continued to grow and Maryland approved 27 brand new programs.
    - During the administration, registered apprentices have increased tremendously and we recently surpassed a record-breaking 11,000 apprentices.
  - **Funding from Hogan Administration:**
    - Governor Hogan, Senate President Bill Ferguson, and House Speaker Adrienne A. Jones announced a bipartisan budget agreement, which included dedicating \$75 million in federal funding to a variety of apprenticeships and employment training programs.

# Workforce Overview

- [Recruitments and Job Fairs](#)
  - The Regional Business Consultant Team along with our WIOA Partners have held approximately 419 Recruitment Events since March 2020. We have had approximately 4,118 job seekers attend our events.
  - Labor has 21 events scheduled for June and July with more in the planning stages.
- Workforce Resources
  - [American Job Centers](#)
    - Located in every single county across the state, Maryland has 30 full service American Job Centers with workforce professionals available to provide a full range of in-person and services to both jobseekers and businesses.
  - [Apprenticeship Locator](#)
    - By using this tool, job seekers can search for apprenticeship programs by county, occupation, industry, and sponsor.
  - [Work Sharing Unemployment Insurance Program](#)
    - The state's Work Sharing Unemployment Insurance Program is a flexible reopening strategy that employers can use to gradually bring their employees back to work full time and successfully reopen for business.
    - Employees can work at reduced hours while collecting partial unemployment benefits to make up a portion of the lost wages.