



DWS/OSS/BOS-L2007-491693-JL

WORKFORCE SYSTEMS LETTER NO.: 07-13

DATE: June 18, 2007

EFFECT: **ACTION** **INFO** **WITH ATTACHMENTS**
 [X] [X] UI Directors [X]

SUBJECT: **Region I - Unemployment Insurance Data Validation Conference –
September 11-12, 2007**

1. Purpose. To announce a two day conference of Region I State Workforce Agency (SWA) Unemployment Insurance Data Validation (UIDV) staff. This meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 11, 2007 and Wednesday, September 12, 2007 in Boston, Massachusetts. The conference is intended for validators and programmers involved in developing DV extract programs. UI program managers responsible for UI required reports are also invited to attend. Attached is a draft agenda. A final agenda will be issued to all participants in advance of the meeting.

2. Background. UIDV is a mandatory program designed to ensure the integrity of data reported to the Department pertain to key Unemployment Insurance (UI) program activities, from workload and economic indicators to efficiency and quality measures. Due to problems encountered by states using US Department of Labor issued software to enter DV data and results, UIPL 22-05, Change 1, was issued on July 26, 2006, announcing a limited hiatus in using the UIDV software until new and improved applications are released. States were advised, however, to continue other key UIDV tasks such as developing/refining extract programs, updating state specific sections of the Benefits and Tax validation handbooks and conducting validations of nonmonetary determinations and lower authority appeals quality samples.

The new software has been developed and is undergoing final testing at the National Office. Testing is scheduled to be complete by June 26, 2007. Prior to release, a four week Beta test in nine volunteer states is to begin July 2. The release of version 1.1 is scheduled for August 8, 2007.

The goal of this conference is to orient staff to the new DV software and address implementation and operational activities/questions that will facilitate a smooth resumption of UIDV activities for Validation Year 2008 (4/1/07 – 3/31/08).

The conference will include key UIDV staff from the National and Regional Offices, and the UIDV program support contractor, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. *State participants are advised to bring their Data Validation Handbooks to the conference, including the state specific Module 3 for Benefits and Tax.*

3. Meeting Plans. The Region I UIDV conference will be held at the John F. Kennedy Federal Building, Conference Room E-275-C, Government Center, Boston, Massachusetts. The conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 11 and end at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 12, 2007. Monday, September 10 and Thursday, September 13 should be reserved for travel. Dress is business casual.

Arrangements have been made for a block of hotel rooms at the **Omni Parker House Hotel, 60 School Street, Boston, Massachusetts**. Reservations may be made by calling the Omni Parker House reservations office at **1-800-THE-OMNI (1-800-843-6664)**. Room rates are at the federal per diem of **\$203.00**, plus MA/city room tax currently at 12.45%.

When making reservations, please reference the “**United States Department of Labor UI Data Validation Conference.**”

Reservations must be guaranteed by a credit card or deposit covering one night's room and tax. **Cancellations must be received by 12:00 on the day of arrival or the party assuming responsibility for the room charges will be billed one night's accommodation.** Hotel valet parking is available at a rate of \$38.00 per day. The URL for hotel's website is www.omniparkerhouse.com.

Travelers are responsible for their own reservations and travel expenses.

Please note that the cut-off date for reservations is August 11, 2007. Reservations made after that date will be on a space available basis and the government rate cannot be guaranteed.

The JFK Federal Building is within walking distance of the hotel and is directly across the street from historic Faneuil Hall and adjacent to Boston City Hall.

4. Action Required. SWA Administrators are requested to please:

- a. Distribute this Issuance to appropriate staff, and
- b. Submit comments on the draft agenda and names of attendees via e-mail to Jim Laham at laham.james@dol.gov no later than July 11, 2007.

5. Inquiries. Inquiries may be directed to Jim Laham at 617/788-0132 or laham.james@dol.gov or to Ms. Kristen Santos at 617/788-0148 or santos.kristen@dol.gov.

Grace A. Kilbane
Regional Administrator

Attachment

DRAFT AGENDA
UI Data Validation Conference
September 11-12, 2007
REGION I
JFK Federal Building
Conference Room E-275C

Tuesday (September 11, 2007)

8:30 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions	USDOL
8:45 a.m.	Meeting Objectives Why Validating Data OIG/GAO Interest UIDV an Integrity Program UI Required Reports (HB 401)	USDOL
9:15 a.m.	UIDV Program Policy Updates Software Documentation UIDV Schedule/Timetable UIDV Website	USDOL/Mathematica
10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:30 a.m.	State Round Robin <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation Status Reports• Benefits and Tax• Extract Programs• Populations Completed/Submitted• Modules 3 and 4• Independent Verification and Validation SBRs• State UIDV Concerns/Issues	All States
11:45 a.m.	Lunch (on own)	
1:00 p.m.	State Round Robin (contd.)	All States
3:00 p.m.	Break	
3:15 p.m.	Implementation Issues/Documentation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Benefits Room E-275C• Tax Room E-245	USDOL/Mathematica/States
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn	

Attachment

Wednesday (September 12, 2007)

8:30 a.m.	Implementation Issues/Documentation (contd.) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Benefits RoomE-275C• Tax Room E-245	USDOL/Mathematica/States
10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:30 a.m.	Software Demonstration – Release 1.1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beta Test Results• Beta Test State Feedback	USDOL/Mathematica/States
11:45 a.m.	Lunch (on own)	
1:00 p.m.	Technical Assistance	USDOL/Mathematica/States
2:45 p.m.	Break	
3:00 p.m.	Technical Assistance (contd.)	USDOL/Mathematica/States
4:00 p.m.	Wrap-Up / Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plenary Session	USDOL/Mathematica/States Conference Room E-275
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn	