

REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: NEBRASKA 2003

DATE: 9/24/04

STATE SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE REPORT (Add additional sheets if necessary.)

Describe activities and an overview of how the activities were accomplished. Include milestones, and positive outcomes achieved. Compare accomplishment of planned performance goals with the attainment of the performance indicators identified by the State in the annual plan.

PY 2002 Overview:

Nebraska's rural and urban economy remained stagnant during 2003. The Unemployment Rate in Nebraska continued to rise over the past year from 3.6% in 2002 to 4.0% in 2003. Unemployment Insurance weekly claims continued to rise, with an 11% increase in Unemployment Insurance benefit payments from 2002 to 2003. The average number of unemployed Nebraskans rose from 34,214 in 2002 to 39,370 in 2003. This continued trend of persons who are unemployed and receiving UI benefit payments demonstrates the continued struggle in 2003 for Nebraskans to find adequate jobs at a sustainable and livable wage. However, the glimpse of economic rebound in 2004 provides hope that this will in turn have a positive impact on the number of Unemployment Insurance weekly claims, as well as decrease the number of unemployed Nebraskans.

PY 2003 Reemployment Services Plan Overview:

As described in the PY 2003 plan, Nebraska was pleased with the manner in which the Re-employment Services program evolved in PY 2002 and felt that continuing the program with the expansion of the three categories of claimants would allow Nebraska the ability to continue to serve a larger population of UI claimants and continue the goal of increasing claimant employability through early intervention.

A continued review of linking the U.I. Eligibility Review Program (ERP) and the Re-employment Services Program coupled with the unpredictability in the distribution of profiled claimants across the rural counties determined that a more controlled system remained required to insure that re-employment services were not only available but actually delivered in all Workforce Development Career Centers throughout the state of Nebraska during PY 2003 as well. Therefore, during PY 2003, Nebraska continued to focus efforts toward the expansion of the target population which included three categories of Unemployment Insurance claimants.

During PY 2003, Nebraska evaluated and refined the definitions of each of the expanded categories. **Category One** remained a profiled claimant. **Category Two** is a claimant not selected through profile who has received five weeks of U.I. benefits. This was previously a claimant who had received 8 weeks of benefits; however, it was determined during PY 2003 that referring these claimants to Re-Employment Services sooner in their claim would ultimately allow for quicker transition to the goal of employment. **Category Three** are other U.I. claimants not selected through profile who will be offered an invitation to participate in the Re-employment Services program on a voluntary basis during the initial interview process. The expansion of the target population and inclusion of a volunteer program continued to insure all twenty-one Workforce Development Centers had a viable and reportable population of Re-employment Services clients during PY 2003.

New procedures and enhanced technical assistance to the Workforce Development Career Centers and U.I. Claim Centers staff continued to be a focus of the Unemployment Insurance Division and the Office of Workforce Services during PY 2003. Procedures have been implemented and are followed in those cases where Re-employment Services clients fail to report, refuse to participate or choose to discontinue services. Some of the joint procedures and technical assistance made available to staff in PY 2003 include: joint training and roundtable discussions between UI Adjudicators and Re-Employment Services staff and monthly management meetings at the Administrative level. System enhancements have also been implemented which allow both the UI and SASi systems to communicate information. A reporting system that allows both divisions to view the status of Re-employment Services clients who do not comply with services and what U.I. determination has been established. The current focus has been on building a report that will allow the U.I. Office to receive information from the SASi system regarding claimants who have received a payment, but are not registered with the Employment Services office. PY 2003 proved to be a year with increased focus on the development of more detailed reporting statistics for the category two and three claimant populations. Likewise, PY 2004 will continue to build upon the need to maintain and continue building reporting capacities in the Re-employment Services program.

Outcome: The expansion of the Re-Employment Services program in Nebraska continued to prove to be a worthy endeavor during PY 2003. During PY 2003 all Career Centers received and served Unemployment Insurance Claimants profiled either through the Category 1 system or Category 2 profiling system that was established in a joint effort between The Office of Workforce Services and The Unemployment Insurance Office. During PY 2003 Nebraska served 1,645 Category 1 claimants. Likewise, 1,534 Category 2 claimants were scheduled to participate in the Re-employment services program, with 891 reporting to receive services.

Performance Goals:

The goal to increase the number of UI claimants reported to Re-Employment Services by 30% as reflected on the ETA 9048 report and the SASi information system was exceeded in PY 2003. The number of UI claimants reporting to Re-Employment Services during PY 2003 as compared to PY 2002 increased by 42% as reflected on the UI 9048 quarterly reports. It should also be noted that during PY 2003 58% of the Category 2 clients that were invited to orientation reported for services, for a total of 891 additional clients reporting to and receiving Re-Employment Services.

The goal to reduce the duration of profiled UI claimants receiving benefits by one week as reflected on the ETA 9049 report is unable to be measured at this time as the UI 9049 quarterly reports for PY 2002 are not yet available.

The goal to reduce the rate of UI benefit exhaustion by 5% as reflected on the ETA 9049 report is unable to be measured at this time as the UI 9049 quarterly reports for PY 2002 are not yet available

Although both the Unemployment Insurance rate and the number of unemployed Nebraskans increased during PY 2003, Nebraska believes that the PY 2003 Re-Employment Plan was successful overall. This success was accomplished by continuing to foster the relationship between the Re-Employment Services program and the Office of Unemployment Insurance in the joint effort of expanding the target UI client categories as discussed above, making management information systems changes, providing new policy, procedure and reporting guidance, providing staff training and technical assistance to all Career Center and UI Claim Center staff and implementing a more focused approach toward reporting and performance outcomes. Nebraska is confident that the expansion of the Re-Employment Services program will in conjunction with a growing economy continue to benefit the State by increasing the number of UI claimants served, thereby decreasing the length of Unemployment Insurance benefit weeks claimed.

ETA 9100