

2020.07.23 - TF. Unemployment Insurance Mtg. Notes

Present: Meena Agarwal, Judge Lou Becker, Conni Bright-Gordon, Sulma Guzmán, Sally Dworak-Fisher

Next Meeting: undecided.

Deadlines:

- First initiative- funding, Temporary Food&Cash Assistance Subcommittee will look into this information. Trying to have a good idea of the financial ask within the next few weeks. The money must be used by the end of December.
- Second initiative- educational materials, we will try to have these materials ready for the end of August.
- Third initiative- policy advocacy, this is an ongoing initiative.

Questions/Concerns:

- Unemployment insurance “extra” ends this Saturday, 7/25/2020, depending on when the recipient gets paid. There is talk of extending this benefit, but there is no clarification about how much extra money will be extended. It will certainly be less than \$600 in place now.
- Legal clinics are typically reserved for lawyers giving legal advice. Most lawyers are not familiar with the application process itself. We may need to find people from other professions to staff these clinics.
- Is there a possibility of advocating for undocumented immigrant workers who cannot access unemployment benefits due to their immigration status?
 - This is something to be brought up to the Policy&Equity Committee.
 - Students in city schools received \$370 EBT cards regardless of immigration status from the CARES Act. This could be something that this committee asks for funding on potentially.
- Accessibility is a huge challenge. We should look into what happens to applications once they are received by the agency. We should also look into what happens when something is wrong with an application. Specifically, we should look at what the agencies response is to an incorrect application.
- Most people that qualify for Unemployment Insurance do not qualify for SNAP benefits. Conni will be looking into this point to get more information.
- For educational materials, we should keep in mind that undocumented parents can apply for benefits for their children if they are U.S. citizens. We should provide some information about this option and process in educational materials.
- For educational materials, it may be helpful for the UI and Temporary Food&Cash Assistance subcommittees to collaborate to have one working document including information about all programs.

Coming up:

- The next meeting will be determined via email.
- Meena will send out an email within the next day to assign every member to their workgroups.
 - Preferences from this meeting: Conni (1,3), Sulma (3), Sally (3), Judge Becker (Not 1 due to potential ethics issues).
 - All others will be assigned without preference.
- At the co-chair/subcommittee head meeting on Monday 07/27/2020, Meena will bring up some of the questions and concerns from above, specifically the issue on undocumented workers and collaborating for educational materials.