



RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNOR'S TALENT INVESTMENT BOARD

From Unemployment to Reemployment
Approved March 20, 2017

In the current economic climate in the state of Michigan, too many people receive unemployment benefits for an extended period of time, even though demand for employees at all skill levels is very high. Currently, Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants are not required to engage constructively with the Michigan Works! Agencies (MWAs) to help coach and guide their job search.

The changes proposed are not intended to be punitive to the individual seeking reemployment. It is designed so that the UI claimant gets assistance from their local MWA in improving skills and identifying positions that the individual may not find on their own. Benefits should include:

- Restore wages and benefits to individuals as soon as possible, mitigating the financial distress created by an extended unemployment period.
- Reduce average number of UI benefit weeks, saving employers and the State of Michigan millions of dollars.
- Ease Michigan's worker shortage by using state resources more efficiently, matching employers with potential candidates.
- Ensure MWAs provide robust, value-added employment services by assessing and evaluating claimants' skillsets and more effectively preparing them for employment (interview coaching, importance of being drug-free, resume creation, etc.)

To achieve these benefits, Governor's Talent Investment Board (GTIB) strongly encourages the Talent Investment Agency (TIA) to make the following procedural improvements to the UI system in the state:

- Ensure that new UI claimants connect with MWAs immediately upon filing for benefits.
- Require that UI claimants maintain bi-weekly contact with a MWA case manager.
- Register UI claimant in customized in-person coaching sessions if 6 weeks have transpired and claimant has not found a job. (in periods of higher unemployment, can be adjusted to 8 weeks.)
- Hold UI claimants and MWAs accountable for verifying job search activities.
- If UI claimant fails to maintain an in-person relationship with the MWA, their benefits may be suspended until they re-engage with the MWA.

In passing this resolution, the GTIB recognizes that the TIA has the responsibility for implementing these changes, understanding further that they still have the burden of ensuring that the specific procedural changes are reasonable, fair and legal.