



FACT SHEET #128 OCTOBER 2015

## Waiver (Suspension) of Unemployment Insurance Eligibility Requirements for Those in Approved Vocational Training

### Usual eligibility requirements for unemployment benefits

An unemployed worker collecting unemployment insurance (UI) benefits normally required to be available for full-time, suitable work and seeking work every week the worker is claiming benefits, and the worker must not refuse an offer of suitable work. (A worker who is able to adjust school hour to seek and accept work, or who would drop out of school to accept work, is already meeting the State of eligibility requirements and would not need to receive a waiver of these requirements.)

### Waiver (suspension) of eligibility requirements for training

Because it is important for many unemployed workers to be retrained, the law says that if a worker is making satisfactory progress in an approved vocational training program, the worker can continue to receive unemployment benefits (up to the maximum number of benefit weeks on the claim) even though the worker is not available

### Requesting a waiver of UI eligibility requirements for those in training

A worker who is in a training or educational program approved by the *Michigan Works!* Agency (MWA) can request the MWA process a waiver to the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) so the UIA will continue to pay unemployment benefits while the worker is in training.

MWA staff can provide the worker with a copy of the *Request for Approval of Vocational Training Course for Waiver of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Eligibility Requirements (Form DLEG-BWT 311-S)*.

Unemployed workers must complete Section A of the two-page form; and MWA staff complete the rest of the form, and send it to the UIA.

### UIA determines if UI eligibility requirements can be waived

Once the UIA receives the waiver request from the MWA, the agency evaluates it and either approves or denies the waiver request using Form UIA 1302, *Determination*.

### If UIA approves waiver

If the UIA approves the training eligibility waiver, then in addition to calling or going online to report to MARVIN every two weeks, the worker will file the *Certification of Participation in Approved Training (UIA form 1680)* by mail or fax, showing the school's verification of the worker's participation.

### For further information

For general information about how to apply for training and the eligibility waiver, call the nearest *Michigan Works!* Agency office. You can find them by calling *Michigan Works!* Toll-free at **1-800-285-9675**. To ask about claiming unemployment benefits while in training, call the Unemployment Insurance Agency at **1-866-500-0017**.