

funds for a fiscal year to the States no later than July 15 of that fiscal year. The Department will first fund all acceptable requests for reserve funds filed before June 1. If there are any funds remaining to be distributed after these reserve fund requests are satisfied, those funds will be distributed to those States that received an initial allocation in an amount greater than their hold harmless amount, using the methodology described in § 618.910.

**§ 618.940 Insufficient funds.**

If, during a fiscal year, the Department estimates that the amount of funds necessary to pay the costs of approved training will exceed the training cap under § 618.900, the Department will decide how the amount of available training funds that have not been distributed at the time of the estimate will be allocated among the States for the remainder of the fiscal year. That decision will be communicated through administrative notice.

**PART 619—UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION DATA EXCHANGE STANDARDIZATION FOR IMPROVED INTEROPERABILITY**

Sec.

619.1 Definitions.

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619.4 Data exchange standardization for the UI Benefits and Tax Systems.

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 1111; Section 2104(b) of Pub. L. 112-96; 42 U.S.C. 1302(a).

SOURCE: 79 FR 9411, Feb. 19, 2014, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 619.1 Definitions.**

As used in this part—

*Administrator of the Office of Unemployment Insurance* means the Department's Employment and Training Administration's chief administrative officer directly responsible for the operation of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program and oversight of the Unemployment Compensation (UC) program and UC laws.

*Department* means the United States Department of Labor.

*eXtensible Markup Language* or *XML* means a markup language that defines a set of rules for encoding documents in a format designed to structure, store and transport data between applications or systems over the Internet. This term includes any future upgrades, iterations, or releases of XML-based language.

*Federal funds* or *Federally-funded* means funds that include, but are not limited to:

(1) Supplemental budget funds that are designated by the Department for State IT modernization efforts;

(2) General State UI administration funding for State program operations (an administrative grant issued by the Department at the beginning of each fiscal year); and

(3) Special UI funding distributions.

*Interstate Connection Network* or *ICON* means a secure multi-purpose telecommunications network that supports the transfer of data among the SWAs.

*Interstate Wages and Benefits Inquiries/Responses* means the ICON application which supports online transmission of interstate wages and benefits inquiries and responses between SWAs.

*Major IT Modernization Project* means conversion, re-engineering, rewriting, or transferring of an existing system to a modernized framework such as transferring a process from mainframe operations to Web-based operations, converting to modern computer programming languages, or upgrading software libraries, protocols, or hardware platform and infrastructure. These are projects to upgrade UI Benefits and Tax Systems by SWAs using Federal funds.

*State* or *States* refers to, individually or collectively, the 50 States of the United States of America, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands.

*State Identification Inquiry* means the ICON application which allows SWAs to inquire about wages reported to other SWAs by Social Security Number.

*State Information Data Exchange System* or *SIDES* means an automated response system used by SWAs to collect claim-related information from employers and third-party administrators.

## § 619.2

*State unemployment compensation law* or *UC law* means the law of a State approved under Section 3304(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 3304(a)).

*State Workforce Agency* or *SWA* means the agency of the State charged with the administration of the State's Unemployment Compensation (UC) law.

*Unemployment Compensation* or *UC* means cash benefits payable to individuals with respect to their unemployment, as defined in 26 U.S.C. 3306(h).

*Unemployment Insurance* or *UI* means the Federal-State system and operations administering and implementing UC law.

*Withdrawn/Invalid Claims* means the ICON application which allows for the posting and viewing of withdrawn or invalid claim information for SWAs.

### § 619.2 Data exchange standardization for ICON.

(a) XML is the data exchange standard for the real-time ICON applications. These applications are: Interstate Wages and Benefits Inquiries/Responses; Withdrawn/Invalid Claims; and State Identification Inquiry.

(b) All SWAs using real-time ICON applications must comply with this XML data exchange standard no later than September 30, 2018. A SWA may request an extension of this deadline if it demonstrates that resources are not available to meet this requirement. These requests must be submitted in writing to the Administrator of the Office of Unemployment Insurance no later than 6 months before the deadline; requests will be approved or denied within 30 days.

### § 619.3 Data exchange standardization for SIDES.

(a) XML is the data exchange standard for SIDES.

(b) This standard applies to any Federally-funded SIDES consortium, and any future agents of the Department providing vendor services for the development, maintenance, support, and operations of the SIDES, and for any State that adopts SIDES. A SIDES consortium involves a group of two or more States jointly establishing a project team to oversee the design, development, and implementation of a

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new SIDES data exchange module. As States implement SIDES or new data exchange modules of SIDES, they must conform to this data exchange standard by application design.

(c) XML is designated as the data exchange standard to govern the reporting of information through SIDES data exchange modules. The regulation applies to current SIDES data exchange modules and any future SIDES data exchange modules developed with Federal funds.

(d) The standard designated in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section is effective March 21, 2014.

### § 619.4 Data exchange standardization for the UI Benefits and Tax Systems.

(a) XML is the data exchange standard for the real time ICON applications set out in § 619.2 and for the SIDES exchanges set out in § 619.3 associated with major IT modernization projects, to upgrade UI Benefits and Tax Systems by SWAs using Federal funds.

(b) The standard designated in paragraph (a) of this section is effective March 21, 2014.

## PARTS 620-621 [RESERVED]

### PART 625—DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

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