

**COLORADO ENHANCED APPROVED TRAINING PROGRAM (CEATP) AND
ENHANCED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMPENSATION BENEFITS (EUICB)
October 1, 2009**

1. WHAT IS THE COLORADO ENHANCED APPROVED TRAINING PROGRAM?

In June 2009, Governor Ritter signed Senate Bill 09-247 that provides additional compensation for Unemployment Insurance claimants who are in an enhanced approved training status. The legislation was effective July 1, 2009 and runs through June 30, 2012, but the program will be officially initiated on Oct. 1, 2009. This program will allow claimants on regular state UI claims to have their job search contacts waived and receive up to an increase of 50% of their weekly benefit amount for up to 20 weeks while they are actively engaged in approved training or an apprenticeship. **There are no training scholarships or supportive services available through this program.**

2. HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM?

Claimants on regular state claims must contact their local workforce center and be determined eligible by the center under the Enhanced Approved Training definition in Senate Bill 09-247. If determined eligible, the workforce center will submit an Enhanced Approved Training Authorization to the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, who will approve or disapprove, and send the authorization to Unemployment Insurance. They will review your claim and send you a Notice of Decision regarding Enhanced Unemployment Insurance Compensation Benefits (EUICB).

3. WHAT ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES DO I HAVE?

- Individuals participating in the program must report on their progress to the workforce center at least once during the first four-six weeks of a training program lasting more than 8 weeks
- Participants must inform the workforce center if they drop out of their training program or get a job (please mention the Colorado Enhanced Approved Training Program when speaking with the workforce center)
- Participants must also respond to a survey at the completion of training, which will be conducted by the Unemployment Insurance Program.

4. WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF ENHANCED APPROVED TRAINING?

An enhanced approved training program shall prepare the eligible UI claimant for entry into occupations within high-demand industry sectors, occupations that lead to stable, long-term employment, or occupations in the renewable energy industry, as determined by labor market data. In addition, the following guidelines apply:

- Claimants may pursue completion of a post secondary degree (MS, BS, BA, or AAS) or a certificate program, as long as the training/coursework meets specific requirements for occupational certification or licensing, or offers training in specific skills required for employment in a specific occupation; or they may pursue a registered apprenticeship

- Masters and Doctoral degree programs or preparatory Associates degree (such as an AA or AS degree) programs that do not prepare individuals for specific occupations, or GED preparation and testing, are **not** approvable
- The training should be likely to enhance the UI claimant's marketable skills and earning power

Workforce centers are responsible for determining whether the training program you wish to pursue meets the definition of Enhanced Approved Training. They can also assist you with researching available training programs and financial aid.

5. HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR ADDITIONAL UI BENEFITS?

Under the program, **Enhanced Unemployment Insurance Compensation Benefits (EUICB)** are payable to those unemployment insurance claimants who:

- Are on a regular state UI claim in their first 26 weeks of benefits and are regularly filing their biweekly claims
- Meet the definition for Enhanced Approved Training described above
- Have an Enhanced Approved Training Authorization, Release of Information, and Claimant Responsibilities form on file with UI
- Have received a Notice of Decision from UI granting them EUICB, which will identify any issues with your claim that would delay or disallow some or all of the additional benefits
- Are enrolled in an enhanced approved training program and making satisfactory progress as certified by the training provider
- Report their progress to the workforce center at least once during the first four-six weeks of a training program lasting more than 8 weeks
- Respond to a survey at the completion of training, which will be conducted by the Unemployment Insurance Program.

If the claimant meets the above requirements, EUICB will be paid as follows:

- EUICB shall be applied to no more than 20 weeks of UI benefits on the regular state claim
- The award of benefits can be backdated to the week ending July 4, 2009, but cannot be paid after June 30, 2012
- EUICB will be paid biweekly, in addition to the regular weekly benefit amount (WBA). Eligible claimants may receive an additional 50 percent of their regular UI weekly benefit amount for a maximum of 20 weeks, or 40 percent of their UI maximum benefit amount, whichever is less.
- EUICB shall NOT be payable during school semester or quarter breaks lasting more than one week., or during any week that the claimant is not attending school or actively engaged in an apprenticeship

NOTE: Claimants should address all questions regarding EUICB, including denials of EUICB, to the Unemployment Insurance Program.