

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 5-11
	DATE August 16, 2011

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
STATE WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATORS
STATE UI DIRECTORS

FROM: JANE OATES /s/
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: 2011 Unemployment Insurance (UI) Innovation, Performance, and Hall of Fame Awards

1. **Purpose.** To solicit nominations for the 2011 UI Innovation Awards and announce the upcoming presentation of the 2011 Performance Awards.
2. **Background.** Recognizing those states with outstanding performance has been an annual part of the UI system. Additionally in 2010, as part of the 75th Anniversary activities, the Department of Labor (DOL) established the UI Innovation Awards and the UI Hall of Fame to recognize the outstanding work of individuals and state UI agencies.

These awards will be presented at the 2011 UI Directors' Conference to be held October 17-20 in Providence, Rhode Island. The conference, jointly sponsored by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA), will focus on key policy issues for UI moving forward. More information can be found at: <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/uiconference/>.

3. **Awards.** At the conference, ETA will recognize states for their outstanding performance in the following categories: 1) Timely, Proper, and High-Quality Eligibility Decisions and Benefit Payments; 2) Timely and High-Quality Appeals Decisions; and 3) High-Quality Tax Operations. UI Innovation Awards will be presented to states that have made significant innovations to improve integrity, service delivery, and reemployment. Lastly, ETA may honor one or more individual(s) with a UI Hall of Fame Award for significant lifetime achievements in furthering the aims of the UI program.

Nominations for the UI Innovation Awards and UI Hall of Fame must be submitted by September 12, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. ET. Award criteria, eligibility, and the process for selecting recipients are discussed in the attached documents. As a reminder, individuals who were nominated for the UI Hall of Fame in 2010, but who were not inducted into the

Hall of Fame, do not have to be renominated to be considered in 2011. Those nominations have been retained and will be considered this year.

4. **Action Requested.** Please distribute throughout the UI community and to interested stakeholders.
5. **Inquiries.** Comments or questions about these awards should be sent to Daniel L. Hays at 202-693-3011 or hays.daniel@dol.gov. Comments and requests may also be mailed to the following address:

Office of Unemployment Insurance
Attn: UI Awards
200 Constitution Ave, N.W.
Frances Perkins Bldg. Room S-4524
Washington, DC 20210

6. **Attachments.**
Attachment A: Unemployment Insurance Hall of Fame Award
Attachment B: Unemployment Insurance Innovation Awards