

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 14-15
	DATE October 19, 2015

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES

FROM: PORTIA WU 
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: The 2015 Short-Time Compensation (STC) Summit

1. **Purpose.** To announce the first STC Summit that will be held on November 17 and 18, 2015, in Washington, D.C. This two-day summit will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on Day 1, and adjourn at 3:00 p.m. EST on Day 2.
2. **Background.** STC, also known as the work sharing or shared-work program, preserves employees' jobs and employers' trained workforces during times of lowered economic activity. STC achieves this by allowing employers to reduce hours of work for certain employees, rather than laying them off, and providing a portion of a weekly Unemployment Compensation payment to those employees. STC cushions the adverse effect of the reduction in business activity on workers by averting layoffs and ensures that these workers will be available to resume prior employment levels when business demand increases.

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-96) (Act) changed the definition of the STC program and provided funds to assist states in creating the program or, in the case of states with existing programs, to expand and/or make enhancements. Unemployment Insurance Program Letter (UIPL) No. 22-12, issued June 18, 2012, provided an overview of the Act's provisions related to the STC program. Model STC legislative language for state laws was issued with UIPL No. 22-12, Change 1, on December 21, 2012. States were invited to apply for grants with UIPL No. 27-12, issued on August 13, 2012, to implement or improve the administration of a STC program or promote and enroll employers in the program. The deadline to apply for these grants was December 31, 2014. Currently, twenty-eight states have STC programs established in law that meet the new Federal definition with twenty-six states currently operating STC.

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) plans to continue to support state implementation of the STC program through additional technical assistance activities that will bring stakeholders together to identify best practices and lessons learned, and provide recommendations for the future. Specifically, ETA plans to: 1) convene a 2015 STC Summit targeted to all states with STC programs and states interested in pursuing a STC program and/or developing new technical assistance tools and products; and 2) update the STC Technical Assistance web site to include new tools, products, and information.

The 2015 STC Summit will highlight effective practices in the implementation and operation of the STC program, identify past and present challenges for states operating STC programs, and strategize solutions and opportunities for future improvements to the program. State participation in plenary and break-out activities is vital to ensure a successful Summit for all STC program stakeholders. ETA will solicit State Workforce Agency staff to present STC effective practices during the Summit's plenary and break-out sessions, to serve on panels, and to participate in general discussions.

3. **Conference Location.** The 2015 STC Summit will be held in the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) Frances Perkins Building, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC on November 17 and 18, 2015.
4. **Travel Costs.** ETA recognizes that state efforts are critical in determining administrative challenges, effective practices, and recommended changes for the STC program. To encourage state participation, ETA through its 2015 STC Summit contractor (Maher & Maher) will provide up to \$1,585 per person (for up to two staff members) to cover travel costs. Allowable travel costs include transportation, hotel lodging, per diem costs (consistent with the General Services Administration schedule or states' out-of-state per diem requirements, whichever is less), and minor incidental costs such as parking. Additional information about the travel expense reimbursement process is on the registration website.
5. **Conference Registration.** There is no registration fee to attend the Summit. However, registration is required and can be completed at http://www.theeventconn.com/UI_STC_Summit. The registration deadline is October 30, 2015.
6. **Hotel Information and Reservations.** Hotel accommodations may be arranged with the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Washington DC - Crystal City. The hotel is within walking distance of the Pentagon Metro station, which can be used to get to/from the Frances Perkins Building. Complimentary hotel shuttle service is available to/from the Pentagon Metro station and Reagan National Airport. A block of rooms has been held under the name "US DOL-UI STC Summit Rooms Only" at the average nightly rate of \$179, plus 13 percent tax, fees, and assessments. The special government room rates are available two days before and after the meeting dates depending on availability. States will be reimbursed for stays only on the nights of November 16, 17, and 18, 2015.

STC Summit attendees must make guest room reservations by Friday, October 23, 2015, in order to receive the government rate. Cancellations may be made up to 48 hours prior to the arrival date (at no later than 4 pm EST). Guests that cancel after the deadline, or no-shows, will be charged one night's room and tax by the hotel. These charges will not be reimbursed by ETA.

Attendees may make online hotel reservations at:

<https://aws.passkey.com/event/14245367/owner/1591/home> or by calling the Reservations Department at 1-800-222-TREE and mentioning the group code "UDU".

7. **Additional Information.** Attendees should be aware that meals and beverages will not be provided at the event and thus should plan accordingly. Information about the hotel and a complete list of restaurants within walking distance of the Frances Perkins Building will be provided to all attendees.

8. **Action Requested.** State Administrators are encouraged to share this information with appropriate STC staff and to authorize staff to attend and/or present at the 2015 STC Summit.
9. **Inquiries.** Inquiries should be directed to the appropriate Regional Office.