

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 21-15
	DATE January 22, 2016

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES

FROM: PORTIA WU 
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Unemployment Insurance Interstate Benefits and Federal Programs Training Conference

1. **Purpose.** To announce the 2016 Unemployment Insurance (UI) Interstate Benefits and Federal Programs (IBFP) Training Conference scheduled to be held March 14-16, 2016, in Tucson, Arizona, and encourage state administrators to send their Interstate/Federal Program Coordinators and Interstate Connection (ICON) programmer(s) to the conference.
2. **Background.** The National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) will be conducting the UI IBFP Training Conference. This two-day training conference will promote cooperation among states in managing Interstate Benefits (IB) and Combined Wage Claim (CWC) operations and fostering efficient administration of the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) program, and the Unemployment Compensation for Ex-servicemembers (UCX) program. The conference will also encourage effective and efficient implementation and use of the ICON network. Information will be shared about optimal use of ICON applications through discussions of state interfaces and benefits realized. In addition, the training conference will provide a forum for discussion of successful practices, current challenges, and issues related to the IB system and the CWC, UCFE, and UCX programs, as well as process improvements and innovations.
3. **Logistics.** NASWA, with support from the Arizona Department of Economic Security, will host the UI IBFP Training Conference, at the Hilton Tucson Hotel, Tucson, Arizona. A draft agenda and detailed information about hotel reservations and meeting registration are available on NASWA's Web site at <http://www.naswa.org/>.

The U.S. Department of Labor recognizes the importance of state staff attending this training conference, and will provide \$2,000 to each participating state, in fiscal year 2016, to help cover travel costs. These funds will be added to states' above base distribution for the second quarter.

4. **Action Requested.** State Administrators are encouraged to provide this information to appropriate staff.
5. **Inquiries.** Inquiries should be directed to the appropriate regional office.