

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 26-15
	DATE February 16, 2016

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES

FROM: PORTIA WU 
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: State Unemployment Insurance (UI) Profiling Methods Training Seminar

1. **Purpose.** This notice announces and solicits nominees for a State UI Profiling Methods Training Seminar to be held April 26 - 29, 2016, in Tempe, AZ.
2. **Background.** In 1993, Congress enacted Public Law 103-152 which amended the Social Security Act by requiring states to establish a system of profiling new UI claimants to identify those most likely to exhaust their UI benefits so they could be referred to reemployment services in a timely manner. More recently, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 appropriation provided funds for Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments (RESEA) targeting UI claimants identified as most likely to exhaust benefits.

Beginning in FY 2016, the RESEA program stipulates that the states operating programs will use existing Worker Profiling and Reemployment Services (WPRS) models to identify those claimants most likely to exhaust benefits and who would therefore benefit from reemployment services. Many state models have not been kept up-to-date or use inadequate specifications that may not properly identify those most at risk of exhausting their benefits. It is important for states to periodically update models with the latest available data reflecting current economic and programmatic trends and to include as many relevant factors as possible to ensure that the RESEA services are properly targeted and will thus have maximum impact.

The primary focus of this seminar is to provide the skills necessary to successfully maintain and enhance the UI profiling systems developed over the last several years. This seminar will also serve as a forum for the discussion and dissemination of those profiling practices that have proven most successful. The seminar will begin with background on WPRS models and the new RESEA program, an overview of applicable statistical techniques, and an introduction to basic data analysis of categorical and continuous variables. Particular emphasis will be placed on hands-on computer use (using SPSS Statistical Software during the seminar), and the use of a simplified, step-by-step approach to model building which state analysts can use to build new state UI Profiling models.

The seminar will be presented by Dr. Robert D. St. Louis, Associate Professor in the Department of Decision and Information Systems, College of Business, Arizona State University in conjunction with staff from the Division of Fiscal and Actuarial Services, Office of Unemployment Insurance. The only prerequisite is an understanding of basic statistical concepts and comfort using windows based, menu driven computer programs.

Preliminary review materials are anticipated to be provided to all participants in the weeks prior to the seminar. Participants will be supplied at the seminar with a training manual prepared by the instructors as well as temporary access to the SPSS statistical software package for use during the seminar.

This seminar is open to state workforce agency and regional office staff. Priority in selection will be given first to staff directly involved with developing and/or updating profiling models. Second priority will be given to other personnel in statistical, actuarial or research type units (labor market information, research and statistics, etc.) who require a working knowledge of profiling. The seminar will be limited to 30 participants. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) National Office will select the participants and notify those selected and not selected through the Regional Offices.

3. **Schedule and Logistics.** The seminar will be held in the Red Lion Inn & Suites conference center at 1429 N. Scottsdale Rd, Tempe, AZ. The seminar will start at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 26, and end at 12:00 p.m., Friday, April 29. Participants should arrive by Monday evening, April 25. Upon selection, participants will receive additional information regarding lodging, special arrangements, and travel instructions.
4. **Costs.** The Department recognizes the importance for state staff to attend this training conference and will provide travel costs for state staff to attend the training session, up to a maximum of \$1,500.
5. **Action Requested.** States or ETA Regional Offices wishing to send staff to the seminar should have nominees complete the attached nomination form. Please make sure that all questions on the nomination form are answered fully. Completed nomination forms may be sent to Rob Pavosevich by email at pavosevich.robert@dol.gov or by fax at 202-693-3229, no later than February 29, 2016. Only staff for whom the necessary travel funds can be secured should be nominated.
6. **Inquiries.** Direct any questions concerning the seminar to Rob Pavosevich at 202-693-2935.
7. **Attachments.**
Attachment I – Tentative Agenda
Attachment II – Nomination Form

TENTATIVE AGENDA
State Unemployment Insurance (UI) Profiling Methods Training Seminar
April 26 – 29, 2016

Tuesday

1. Introduction and Overview of RESEA and Profiling
2. Overview of Potential Data Sources and Key Variables
3. Overview of Data Review and Preparation
4. Computing Modeling Variables
5. Computer Exercise #1: Computing Model Variables using Graphical Depictions

Wednesday

1. Analyzing Variable Relationships
2. Overview of Potential Modeling Options
2. Overview of Logistic Regression Modeling
3. Reviewing the Process of Model Building
4. Introduction to R Statistical Software Package
5. Computer Exercise #2: Profiling Using Logistic Regression

Thursday

1. Evaluating Profiling Models
2. Validating Profiling Models
3. Advanced Modeling Techniques
4. Computer Exercise #3: Building and Validating a Profiling Model

Friday

1. Ongoing Model Evaluation
2. Non-Statistical Model Improvements
3. Presentation of Participant developed Models and Model Evaluations

NOMINATION FORM
2016 STATE UI PROFILING METHODS TRAINING SEMINAR

State: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____ Work Phone No.: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Work Address: _____

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Years of schooling completed: 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

Degree	Date	Major
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Other relevant course work or training specific to meeting the requirements of seminar participation. Please list class/training, skills developed and the date of completion:

WORK EXPERIENCE

Length of time developing, maintaining or updating profiling models: _____

Length of time working in UI: _____

Length of time engaged in other work in
research, statistics or related activities: _____

Describe briefly your present duties, particularly as related to this seminar:

COMPUTER AND STATISTICAL SKILLS

Do you have experience or training in the following?

Spreadsheets: Yes / No

Statistical packages: Yes / No

SPSS Statistical Package: Yes / No

Regression Analysis: Yes / No

Courses or training taken in statistics, mathematics, economics, and/or statistical packages:

RECOMMENDED BY:

Signature

Title