

## Focus Area Projects

The types of activities for which Focus Area funding may be requested are provided below. Please note that states submitting more than one proposal under the State-Specific Integrity and Program Performance Focus Areas should rank the proposals by priority since ETA may not fund all proposals.

### **UI IT Systems Improvement Projects**

The only UI IT system projects that will be considered include are:

- **UCX Enhancements** to the electronic data exchange for the receipt of DD214s and DD215s from the military. During the next year, the electronic data exchange with the military will be expanded to provide the capability to notify the military branches of claims being filed and allow for the military to electronically provide additional separation information that could be of value to the states in making eligibility determinations. In addition, the quarterly billing process will be moved from a paper data exchange to an electronic data exchange. Implementation of these two initiatives will require programming and processing changes in the states.

These funds may be used for the following purposes:

- 1) Dedicating a full-time position for a UI-ICON Programmer;
  - 2) Programming to provide additional information in the Type 2 Request Record sent to the Federal Claims Control Center (FCCC), such as: changing the Branch of Service field from optional to required, populating the Maximum Benefit Amount and Weekly Benefit Amount information in the Type 2 Record, and adding dependent allowance;
  - 3) Programming to ensure that states can send and receive all six UCX record types;
  - 4) Programming to update the UCX message codes to display new message types for error handling in the state system;
  - 5) Developing the appropriate interfaces with the state benefits systems to generate the quarterly billing statement electronically; and
  - 6) Testing the state systems to verify correct display and processing functionality.
- **Integration of state UI, ES and WIA IT systems to support reemployment of UI claimants. Some examples of uses include:**
    - **Programming to better direct initial UI claimants to Employment Service registration or support integrated registration;**
    - **Programming that supports integrated service delivery of UI and reemployment services for UI claimants;**
    - **Programming that supports pushing jobs from the state's job bank to UI claimants;**

- **Programming to collect more information in the UI and/or ES registration process, such as past occupations and industries, skills attained, and degrees earned, that may be useful for targeting reemployment services and connecting individuals to available employment; and**
  - **Improvement of worker profiling systems to increase the accuracy with which they predict exhaustion and target services to those who are likely to have the most difficulty finding a job due to either low experience levels or a mismatch between the job seeker’s experiences and the local labor market.**
- **UI Information Technology (IT) Security**
  - **UI IT Contingency activities such as development/updates to UI IT Contingency Plans, including obtaining an Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V)**
  - **State Integrity and Performance Improvement Projects**

States committing to implement the required Core Strategies identified in the UIPL in Section 5 will be permitted to request up to \$500,000 in additional funding to address the specific Focus Area activities listed in Section 6.

The only types of state integrity and performance improvement project that will be considered are:

- **States may request that up to \$500,000 of these funds be used to supplement the State-Identified Prevention Strategy identified in Section 5, providing a total of up to \$1.25 million to support that strategy.**
- **UI Data Validation for Benefits/Tax** to obtain an independent (third party) validation and verification (IV&V) that the state’s data validation extract files meet Federal UI data validation requirements.
- **Deploying SIDES earnings verification module, and monetary and potential employer charges data exchanges**
- **Worker Misclassification detection and enforcement activities.**
- **State-Identified Work Search Strategy** designed to address improper payments due to work search. This proposal may include state-specific solutions, such as targeted claimant messaging (see UIPL No. 11-12).