



Quarterly News

Refusal of Work

Federal law requires those on a temporary layoff related to the COVID-19 pandemic, return to work when called back. Failure to do so when there is available work could be considered a “refusal of work” and potentially disqualify the claimant from receiving unemployment insurance benefits.

As employers, we need your help to know if or when one of your employees refuses an offer to return to work.

For SIDES E-Response participants, the easiest and quickest way to inform the department of a refusal is by amending your SIDES separation response.

To amend your response:

- Log into uieservices.mt.gov
- Navigate to the SIDES Request tab (under the Benefits tab after you click into your account)
- Select View/Amend to launch the SIDES E-Response portal
- On the UI SIDES E-Response Switchboard, select Separation Information
- For the claimant you wish to amend, select Create Amendment

On the Amended Response page provide as much detail as possible regarding the refusal of work, including: the date(s) they refused work, what type of work was offered, how was the work offered and by whom, and what was the reason given for not accepting the work.

You can also report refusals by calling (406) 444-0399 or fax the information to (406) 444-2699.

Job Attachment Updates

Do you need to update the Job Attachment status for any of your employees? Log into uieservices.mt.gov today and send us a secure web message with all the details (employee’s name, SSN, and what update should be made) and we’ll see that it gets done!

2021 Taxable Wage Base

The 2021 taxable wage base will be **\$35,300**, which is 80% of the 2019 average annual wage (rounded to the nearest \$100).

We recommend you not update payroll software with the 2021 taxable wage base until AFTER you file the UI report for the fourth quarter of 2020.

Workforce Development Grant

The Workforce Development Grant is the perfect opportunity for you to receive funding when you hire and/or train an eligible employee. The Montana Department of Labor & Industry may be able to provide up to \$5,000 to help you attract, hire, and retain workers. Contact your local Job Service office for more information.

2020 Assistance to Business Clinic Free and Available Online!

This year, we recorded our Assistance for Business Clinic and have made it available to all employers and tax preparers free of charge. Presenters include the Unemployment Insurance Benefits and Contributions Bureau, Workers’ Compensation, Job Service, the National Guard, Compliance and Investigations (formerly Wage & Hour), and the Montana Department of Revenue.

New employers and those who have never attended will find this well worth your time! The presentations and handouts are available at www.dli.mt.gov/-assistance-for-business-clinics.

SafetyFestMT

The Unemployment Insurance Division is participating in the virtual Bozeman SafetyFest, taking place November 18, 2020. This event is a great opportunity to learn about UI tax and benefits while attending a variety of safety presentations. Register for SafetyFest at SafetyFestMT.dli.mt.gov



Are you still receiving requests for information regarding benefit claims in your mail box and having to rush to ensure your response is completed and returned timely? Sign up for SIDES E-Response and cut out the mail time.

SIDES E-Response is a convenient and secure way for employers to electronically receive and respond to requests for information regarding unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. It's fast, it's free, and it greatly reduces any forfeiture of rights to protest benefit eligibility or benefit charges.

SIDES can be utilized to respond to or review information regarding:

- Separation Information (including any necessary Additional Fact Finding),
- Monetary and Potential Charging,
- Earnings Verifications, and
- Determinations and Decisions

For more information go to uieservices.mt.gov and review our [SIDES FAQ](#) or call (406) 444-3834 and select option 2 to speak with one of our customer service representatives.

More than 16,000 Montana employers are already participating. What are you waiting for, get signed up today!

Attention Reimbursable Employers!

December 1 is the deadline to notify us you would like to switch your account from a reimbursable to an experience rated account effective January 1.

You cannot make the change if you have already changed within the last two years.

Please call us at (406) 444-3834, option 1, to learn more or to obtain the form to make the switch.

Remote (Electronic) Audits

This year has brought a lot of change to the world around us. Everyone has been impacted in one way or another. How we do business is no exception.

As directed by the US Department of Labor, in the coming weeks our field auditors will get back to conducting random Unemployment Insurance Tax Audits. However, to ensure the health and safety of both your staff and ours, all audits will be conducted remotely for the foreseeable future.

If you are selected for audit, you'll receive notification and a list of the records or documents required for review, with instructions for securely submitting them to us.

Secure web messaging through UI eServices for Employers is one of the easiest and most secure methods for sending in documents.

Simply log into uieservices.mt.gov, navigate to the Messages tab and click Send Message. Attachments can be added to the message by clicking Add under the Attachments section (multiple attachments can be added to a single message).

Once submitted, your message is immediately available to our representatives. It's as easy as sending an email but far more secure!

Report Fraud

If you suspect a person or business is committing UI fraud, go to uieservices.mt.gov and select [Report UI Fraud](#) under the Helpful Links.

Or contact our fraud investigators by phone at (406) 444-0072; by email at dliuidci@mt.gov or by fax at (406) 444-6651.