



## Quarterly News

### UI Modernization Project

Things are getting exciting on the Unemployment Insurance Division (UID) Modernization Project! The integrated tax and benefit claims system is coming together and on track for deployment early October 2023.

Benefits of the new integrated system include:

- New responsive design for **UI eServices for Employers** ([uieservices.mt.gov](http://uieservices.mt.gov)), allowing easy access and use on any device.
- New and improved eServices options for managing your UI tax account, filing quarterly reports, submitting payments, retrieving correspondence, and more.
- New eServices integrated Separations Fact Finding. Employers will have earlier involvement in the fact-finding process. Standardized questions targeted at specific issues will provide more consistency throughout the claim process and improve our ability to identify and reduce improper payments.
- Improved UI fraud detection and prevention through integrated national database crossmatches and id verifications.
- Single sign on to eServices and other state services through OKTA.

Webinars are being planned for mid-to-late September to guide employers and third-party administrators (TPA) through the eServices changes and provide more details on the new eServices log in process. Current eServices users will not have to create new logons, but you will need to connect your existing logon to OKTA.

Watch your email box and [UI eServices for Employers](#) for more details as they become available.

### Change to Casual Labor Exclusion

The 2023 legislature made a change to [MCA 39-51-204\(f\)](#) (Exclusions from Definition of Employment), increasing the exclusion for casual labor from \$50 to \$300. Casual labor is work performed that is not in the course of an employer's trade or business or performed by a regular employee of the business.

### Confidential Information Sharing

The Montana Unemployment Insurance Division (UID) must notify employers that wage information and other confidential unemployment insurance (UI) information may be requested and used for governmental purposes other than unemployment compensation. For example, federal and state law allows use of confidential UI information to verify an individual's eligibility for other government programs.

We take our responsibility to protect the confidentiality of employer and claimant information very seriously. Confidential UI information, including your name, address, FEIN, UI account number, wage information, and social security numbers of individuals is released only after careful verification of the requesting authority.



### ASSISTANCE *for* **BUSINESS CLINIC**

The Assistance for Business Clinics have gotten off to a great start in 2023! We resumed in person sessions and the response has been all thumbs up. See below for remaining 2023 dates:

Havre - June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Kalispell - September 13 <sup>th</sup>
Cut Bank - June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Helena - September 14 <sup>th</sup>
Great Falls - June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Billings - September 19 <sup>th</sup>
Glasgow - June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Bozeman - September 20 <sup>th</sup>
Glendive - June 21 <sup>st</sup>	Butte - September 21 <sup>st</sup>
Miles City - June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	
Lewistown - June 28 <sup>th</sup>	

Additional information and registration can be found at [dli.mt.gov/resources/abc-clinics](http://dli.mt.gov/resources/abc-clinics) or contact Andy Shirliff at [andy.shirliff@mt.gov](mailto:andy.shirliff@mt.gov) or (406) 444-6171.



## Seasonal Employment/Alien Workers

Many employers in Montana ramp up hiring during the summer months, which leads to questions about UI tax requirements for seasonal employees, including temporary, part-time, high school and alien employees.

Some alien visa holders are required to be reported on Montana Unemployment Insurance reports, while others are exempt. **Employers need to confirm the visa type for aliens they hire.** Alien visa holders who should not be reported to Montana UI include workers identified in *8 USC 1101; (a)(15)(F); (a)(15)(H)(ii)(a); (a)(15)(J); (a)(15)(M); or (a)(15)(Q)*. Aliens working in Montana under any other type of visa should be reported.

Employers should also include school age employees on their Unemployment Insurance reports unless the employee is a dependent (for whom an income tax exemption may be claimed) working for his or her parent(s) who operate as a sole proprietorship.

All other types of seasonal, temporary, or part-time employment are covered, and wages paid to these workers should be reported on the Unemployment Insurance Quarterly Reports. For more information on reportable employment and wages, see Section 3 of [Montana's Employer Handbook](#). The handbook can be found online at [uieservices.mt.gov](http://uieservices.mt.gov).

Did you know that your seasonal workers may qualify for UI benefits? Many Montana employers have off seasons, from construction to tourism and many other industries in between. It is common for Montana employers to temporarily lay off employees until business picks up. These workers may be eligible to receive UI benefits.

It is important to provide any employee impacted by a temporary or permanent layoff (or reduction of hours) with information regarding their potential eligibility for UI benefits. You can use the [Notice to Employees](#) found under Handbooks, Forms, & More on the eServices homepage ([uieservice.mt.gov](http://uieservice.mt.gov)).

## SafetyFestMT

October 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> 2023 (virtual)  
May 14<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (Missoula College)  
For more information, [safetyfestmt.dli.mt.gov](http://safetyfestmt.dli.mt.gov)

## Where do I report Remote Workers?

If you have workers who travel from state to state on an ongoing basis and their service is not localized in one state, then you would report the worker in the state where they have a base of direction and control. If there is no base of control, then the state where the employer is headquartered is taken into consideration.

However, if the worker is working from their home, they should be reported in the state where their home office is located, not where the company headquarters are located. An occasional business trip to the headquarters for a company meeting is considered a normal business trip and does not change where they should be reported.

Despite the different wording by each state, the laws are nearly identical in application. Review page 10 of [Montana's Employer Handbook](#) for information on our localization law.

## File Transfer Service

The [State of Montana File Transfer Service \(transfer.mt.gov\)](http://transfer.mt.gov) is a secure email service available for transmitting larger files such as authorizations for sub-contractor compliance letters or requested audit documentation.

## Report Fraud

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

Or contact our fraud investigators by phone by calling (406) 444-0072 or email [dliuidci@mt.gov](mailto:dliuidci@mt.gov).

**You can remain anonymous!**

## Questions about Benefit Charges on your account?

Call the Employer Charging Phone Line at 406-444-0399. We are here to help! Hours 8 am – 4 pm (closed for lunch 12 – 1).