

**THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (CDLE)
SUPPORTS H.B. 1272**

By Representatives Duran and Ramirez

Continuation of Enhanced UI Benefits for approved training programs*

Background: SB 09-247 (CRS 8-73-114) authorized the Colorado Enhanced Approved Training Program (CEATP) to obligate up to \$15 million in UI Trust Fund monies to be paid as additional UI benefits to certain claimants participating in approved training programs. From November, 2009 through November, 2011, the CEATP provided training and benefits to approximately 2500 claimants. The purpose behind this initiative was to provide additional UI benefits for claimants participating in targeted training to increase the likelihood of permanent employment for claimants needing to develop new skills or upgrade their skills to be competitive in the labor market.

Purpose of HB 1272: The current CEATP program is due to expire June 30, 2012, and H.B. 1272 is designed to extend the expiration date by two years (through June 30, 2014), to make certain modifications to the eligibility criteria for approved training programs, and to expand the pool of eligible participants to include unemployed military veterans and those on extended benefits. Furthermore, by modeling program improvements on the successful Hire Colorado program, we will increase the likelihood of achieving entered employment outcomes of at least 75%, the entered employment rate for Hire Colorado participants.

To date, the current program has obligated approximately 7-8 million of the originally authorized \$15 million total, leaving approximately half of the original amount unobligated. By including the opportunity to assist veterans and long-term unemployed claimants, as well as other program improvements, this bill will allow CDLE to provide more comprehensive measurement of results, as noted below.

Proposed program improvements:

- Program eligibility for military, federal, and extended benefit claimants.
- Inclusion of approved employer-based and entrepreneurial training programs.
- Improved partnership with regional workforce centers and other local resources.

Measurable Program Performance: Performance outcomes will be based on entered employment rates, average wages, employment retention and other return on investment determinations, such as financial investment comparisons to other employment initiatives. Data will be collected by state and local partners and participating employers.

Responsible Stewardship of UI Trust Fund:

- 100% of the dollars obligated from the UI Trust Fund for this program will be paid as benefits to participating claimants.
- Administrative costs for the program will be identified from separate sources such as eligible federal funds or other gifts, grants or donations.
- This program will not extend the allowable time period for unemployment benefits.
- This proposed investment is a very small percentage of the UI Trust Fund, and will not preclude standard benefits to other eligible claimants.

*** Full Bill Title: Concerning continuation of enhanced unemployment insurance benefits for unemployed individuals participating in approved training programs.**

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