

South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation Reemployment Assistance Advisory Council

2020 Annual Report

The Reemployment Assistance (RA) Advisory Council's primary responsibility is to aid the Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) in reviewing the RA program as to its content, adequacy, and effectiveness, and to make recommendations for improvement.

The Council is composed of Governor-appointed members representing the interests of employers, employees, and the public. The Council is chaired by DLR Cabinet Secretary Marcia Hultman, and other members include: Robert Anderson, Kari Karst, David Owen, Pamela Roberts, Mark Rogers, Dr. Nathan Sanderson, Dan Schmidt, and Douglas Severson.

This document serves as the annual report of meetings, discussions, and recommendations of the Council, pursuant to SDCL 61-2-7.1. The annual report is available to any interested parties at dlr.sd.gov.

Council action began with a meeting on June 4, 2020. Secretary Hultman reviewed federal unemployment provisions under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. New programs included Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC).

Secretary Hultman also reviewed additional exceptions, including suspension of the work search requirement and non-paid waiting week, relief of employer charges for COVID-19 related payments, and employer exemptions from late payment penalties.

The June 4, 2020, meeting concluded with the current state of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, including financial projections for 2020. Public comments were opened; none were received.

The second Council meeting was held on October 21, 2020. Secretary Hultman provided an overview of unemployment claims activity since the pandemic began in March, including total claims processed, payments released, staffing adjustments, and fraud investigations.

The meeting concluded with the current state of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, including financial projections for 2020. Public comments were opened; none were received.

The Council had no recommendations for change to the Governor or Legislature at the final 2020 meeting.

Respectfully submitted on December 15, 2020, by the RA Advisory Council.

ATTACHMENT A: Trust Fund Projections | October 21, 2020 Council Meeting

RA Financials - Quarterly Summary

(in Millions)

CY 2020	Actual 1st Qtr	Actual 2nd Qtr	Projected 3rd Qtr	Projected 4th Qtr	Total
Contributions/Interest In	\$4.7	\$12.8	\$8.2	\$6.2	\$31.9
CARES Act Transfer In		\$45.6			\$45.6
Waiting Week Reimbursement In		\$5.0			\$5.0
Benefits Paid Out	\$12.1	\$52.6	\$27.0	\$15.5	\$107.2
Trust Fund	\$129.2	\$129.9	\$121.7	\$112.5	\$112.5