



Program #72019 - Central HR Unemployment 4/21/2021

Department: County Management **Program Contact:** Travis Graves

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Proposed

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Unemployment Insurance Program provides unemployment benefits to eligible workers who are unemployed due to layoff or other discharge for reasons other than misconduct. Unemployment insurance replaces part of the income that employees lose when they become unemployed.

Program Summary

Unemployment benefits are provided through the State or Oregon Employment Department. The County funds these benefits, as a self-insured employer, with direct payments to the state. Former employees, or employees who have had their hours reduced, submit claims to the State, who determines eligibility and benefit amounts. The State recoups funding for the claims directly from the County quarterly. Claimants file an appeal with the State when they want to contest an eligibility decision, for a hearing with an administrative law judge.

The Unemployment Insurance Program provides the funding to ensure eligible workers secure financial assistance when they are no longer employed by the County, or their hours are reduced. The program responds to the State’s Employment Department in a timely manner, provides accurate and timely monitoring and reporting, and participates in all appeal hearings to decrease costs and liability due to ineligible claims. The County doesn’t contest eligible claims, but benefits claim decisions can favor the applicant if responses are late, data is inaccurate or an employer fails to respond to a requested clarification.

The impact of COVID-19 has been an increase in the number of claims filed. Fraudulent claims, which were previously non-existent, have risen to 81 since the onset of work-from-home directives in March 2020. This has been due to a nationwide issue with “bad actors” using unemployment claims as a method of identity theft. Ultimately, there should be no financial impact as these claims should be closed, but there has been an increase in county-to-employee contact as we notify each employee or former employee they have possibly been a victim of ID Theft.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Number of employee claims for unemployment.	381	250	520	475
Outcome	Percentage of unemployment claim appeals found in the county's favor.	80%	50%	50%	50%
Output	Number of unemployment appeals.	10	7	10	8

Performance Measures Descriptions

Outputs and Outcomes: The number of claims for FY 2021 is higher than budgeted due to the reasons listed in summary. Appeals are filed when the claimant disagrees with the benefit eligibility decision by the State; claims in the County’s favor means a lower expense and lower risk to the County.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Unemployment Insurance benefits are mandated by federal and state laws. Oregon Employment Law, statues 657.005 and 657.010, Federal Unemployment Act Social Security Act.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Personnel	\$0	\$39,029	\$0	\$39,415
Contractual Services	\$0	\$150	\$0	\$150
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$970,921	\$0	\$970,921
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$1,010,100	\$0	\$1,010,486
Program Total:	\$1,010,100		\$1,010,486	
Program FTE	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.15

Program Revenues				
Other / Miscellaneous	\$0	\$1,011,224	\$0	\$1,010,486
Total Revenue	\$0	\$1,011,224	\$0	\$1,010,486

Explanation of Revenues

This program is supported by the Risk Fund. Unemployment claims are funded by assessing a rate based on 0.25% of monthly payroll for each department. Revenue for FY22 is \$1,010,486.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2021: 72019 Central HR Unemployment