



Expedite Payments and Increase Program Integrity

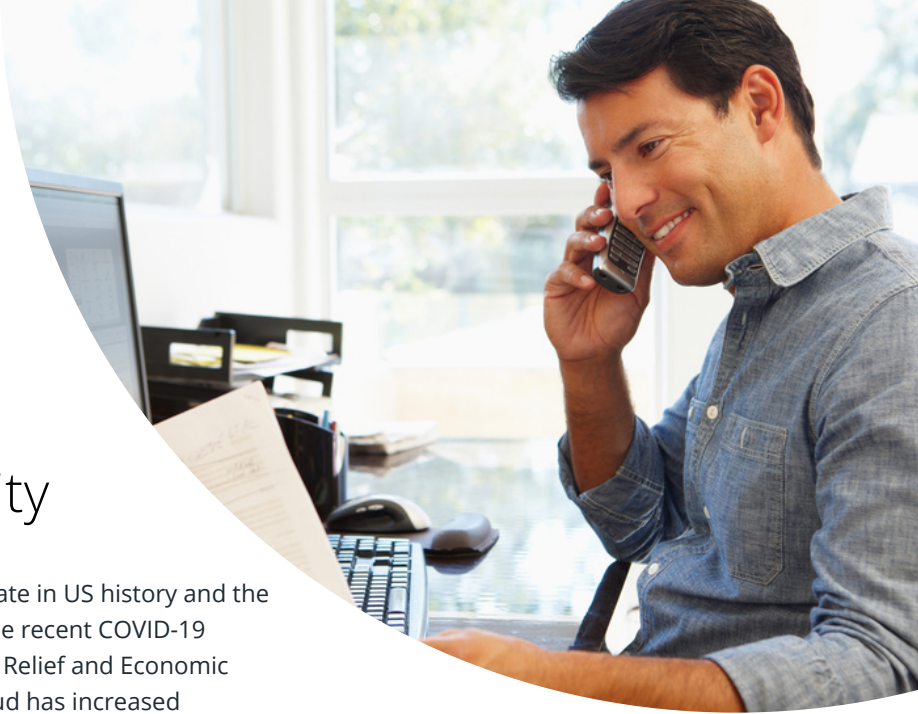
Workforce agencies faced the highest unemployment rate in US history and the lowest level of trust fund solvency nationwide during the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Since the enactment of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Unemployment Insurance (UI) fraud has increased significantly, further testing the integrity of individual state systems. Workforce agencies struggled with providing benefits and payments promptly in order to meet program standards and beneficiaries' expectations. According to the U.S. Department of Labor IPIA 2020, the leading cause of overpayment is now benefit year earnings, up 5.7% over the previous year, making the focus on program integrity even more critical.

To protect the program integrity of the unemployment compensation program, states must maintain weekly/biweekly certification processes to verify the continuing eligibility of the programs' claimants, and must complete required checks for interstate wages, such as verifying identity and cross matching with certain databases designed to prevent and detect improper payments and ineligibility. The Department of Labor is providing millions of additional funds in grants to states that promote equitable access to Unemployment Compensation (UC) programs, which includes eliminating administrative barriers to benefit applications, reducing state workload backlogs, improving the timeliness of UC payments to eligible individuals, and ensuring equity in benefit access, payment detection, and recovery activities.

To help workforce agencies address these challenges, Equifax offers solutions designed to foster a more robust and streamlined process for UI claims. These services can help agencies:

Verify Employment and Income Information

Equifax platform Instant Client Insights uses The Work Number® database to instantly search over 140 million employment records contributed by over 2.5 million employers nationwide, including small and medium sized employers. The Work Number database is updated each time a contributing employer processes payroll so that you have access to up-to-date information (as provided by the employer). Many Workforce Agencies use the National Directory of New Hires and State Wage data to verify return to work, but the information is dated and may not be accurate, increasing the risk for benefit year earnings overpayments. With its broad scope of employer records and the addition of Independent 1099 Contractor records, The Work Number data is an excellent source for verifying employment to determine continued eligibility.



Key Benefits

Identify return to work faster

Determine valid identities prior to issuing benefit

Properly pay eligible recipients

In 2020, lack of accurate benefit year earnings reporting resulted in 37.44% of the improper payments in unemployment benefits.¹

The Work Number is unique because we provide payroll records directly from the employer or payroll provider, and we add new records every payroll cycle, so you can access up-to-date income and employment data. Data provided directly from employers can help states more confidently determine an individual's eligibility than New Hire Directories and quarterly State Wage data, allowing caseworkers and investigators to better focus their efforts. Equifax has the unique ability to help confirm eligibility by verifying income and employment faster because such information is updated each payroll cycle. In addition, it includes additional information required for public assistance not typically available from governmental data sources, including, for example, hours worked and income-by-pay period when reported by the employer.

Validate identity at the point of application

Equifax has partnered with Socure to provide Digital Identity Trust for Government Agencies to streamline identity verification and program integrity with the most inclusive identity platform. Socure has enabled millions of people who are underbanked, credit-invisible, or otherwise excluded from commercial offerings and government programs due to inaccurate, outdated identity verification, to instantly access services and benefits online. Digital Identity Trust will allow agencies to:

- Approve more eligible individuals by increasing auto-verification rates, up to 98%²
- Improve program integrity
- Reduce manual reviews and improve instant decisions.

Access to real-time incarceration pointer data helps states gain more information on where to look to potentially prevent and recover improper unemployment insurance payments

Our Incarceration Intelligence solution helps states gain more information on where to look to potentially prevent fraudulent claims and properly pay individuals. We operate the nation's most comprehensive incarceration data network, with direct jail management system interfaces to nearly 3,000 jails and DOC facilities.

Agencies are able to place "watches" on their claimant lists, and receive alerts when a claimant is:

- Booked into custody
- Released from custody
- Incarcerated for a certain "length of stay"

In many states, we continuously monitor the agency's active claimant list, so that its staff is alerted, in real time, when a claimant is booked into custody.



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¹ US DOL, IPIA 2020

² Based on study including commercial lending institutions and not specific to government entities and constituents; results may vary in government context.