

Bipartisan Budget Act

SEC. 30206. REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENTS.

The RESEA program helps unemployment insurance (UI) beneficiaries who are identified as likely to exhaust benefits return to work more quickly. States use funds to provide job search assistance, career services, referrals to training and to conduct eligibility reviews. This legislation would authorize RESEAs for ten years, build on the program's success, and leverage evidence-based policy to help more unemployed workers get jobs quickly. (Note: RESEA grants have been directed to states since they began in 2005 through discretionary appropriations.)

(a) Amends Title III of the Social Security Act by adding at the end:

Sec. 306 GRANTS TO STATES FOR REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENTS

Subsection (a) of 306: Codifies the Department of Labor's (DOL) authority to operate the RESEA program in the Social Security Act.

Subsection (b) of 306: Outlines goals of the program:

- 1) Improving employment outcomes and reducing average duration of receipt of benefits for individuals receiving unemployment compensation;
- 2) To strengthen program integrity and reduce improper payments through detection and prevention of payments to individuals who are not eligible;
- 3) To promote alignment with the workforce development system under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA); and
- 4) To establish an entry point for individuals receiving unemployment compensation to other workforce programs.

Subsection (c) of 306: Requires states to establish and expand the use of evidence-based interventions that have a high or moderate causal rating (using DOL's existing evidence ranking system) in the operation of the RESEA program. States must use a percentage of the grant funds awarded for evidence-based interventions that improve employment outcomes for program participants, phased-in as follows:

- FY 2023 and 2024 – at least 25% of funds
- FY 2025 and 2026 – at least 40% of funds
- After FY 2026 – at least 50% of funds

Subsection (d) of 306: Beginning in FY 2023, requires states to evaluate any interventions without a high or moderate causal rating and allows states to use up to 10% of their grant funding for this purpose.

Subsection (e) of 306: As a condition of receiving grant funds, requires states to submit a plan that describes the state's RESEA program and provides assurances that: 1) the program will provide proper notification to participating individuals; 2) reasonable scheduling accommodations; 3) a description of evidence-based interventions the state plans to use to speed reemployment; and 4) how the state will evaluate interventions without a high or moderate causal rating. Requires the state to report data on the characteristics and employment outcomes of program participants.

