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**Maine Department of Labor
Bureau of Unemployment Compensation**

Dislocated Worker Benefits Program

2024 Annual Report to the

Joint Standing Committee on Labor

In accordance with 26 M.R.S. §1196, sub-§2

April 4, 2025

Dislocated Worker Benefits Program Overview

The Dislocated Worker Benefits Program is an unemployment benefit program established in 1986 through 26 M.R.S. §1196. The program covers individuals who have been separated from their employment through no fault of their own and are expected to be out of work for an extended period. 26 M.R.S. §1191(4)(A) further provides that a dislocated worker who exhausts all other benefit programs may be eligible for up to 26 additional weeks of benefits if they are in a training program authorized in the statute.

The individual must meet one of the following criteria:

- A. Has been laid off as a result of a reduction of operations at the individual's place of employment or has received a notice of termination or layoff from employment.
- B. Has been terminated or who has received a notice of termination of employment as a result of any permanent closure of a plant or facility.
- C. Is long-term unemployed and has limited opportunities for employment or reemployment in the same or a similar occupation in the area in which he/she resides, including any older individual who may have substantial barriers to employment because of his/her age.

The unemployment benefits paid for this program are funded through the Maine Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund and are not charged to any individual employer account.

Dislocated Worker Benefits Program Report

The following information is provided in accordance with 26 M.R.S. §1196, sub-§2. Because an individual is likely to receive benefits that span multiple calendar years and because subsequent employment typically occurs in a separate calendar year, the Department has opted to provide information for a five-year period covering calendar years 2020-2024.

A. The number of individuals who received benefits between 1/1/2020 and 12/31/2024:

- 323 claimants received a payment who filed an initial claim under the DWB program

Year of Initial Claim	Count of Initial Claims
2020	57
2021	37
2022	74
2023	63
2024	92

Note: Some claimants who filed an initial claim between 1/1/2020 and 12/31/2024 but did not receive their first benefit payment until 2025 are included. Some claimants filed an initial claim before 1/1/2020 and received a payment on, or after, 1/1/2020 are excluded.

B. The average length of time spent in approved training for individuals who receive benefits:

- Number of Weeks 45.2 weeks

Note: This calculation is based on claimants receiving a payment under the DWB program who also participated in training recorded in the Maine Job Link using the enrollment start and enrollment end dates for that record.

C. The average weekly benefit and average total amount of benefits paid to individuals:

- Average Weekly Benefit \$ 418
- Average Total Benefits Paid to Each Person \$ 6,151

D. The success rate in placing trainees who receive benefits:

- Of the 120 individuals who received training that was recorded in the Maine Job Link and for whom we have training start and end dates, 58 had completed training with enough time passed to observe two quarters of employment outcomes after their training end date.
- 43 out of 58 were employed two quarters after their training enrollment end date, representing an employment rate of 74 percent.

Note: Individuals may receive a training waiver through the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation, the Bureau of Employment Services, or the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services. The end date of the BUC

training waiver specifically matches either the end of the training, the end of an eligible benefit year, or the end of entitlement to DWB, and therefore is not an indicator of training completion. Individuals who received such a waiver are excluded from the above outcome calculations.

- E. The total cost of benefits paid for claims in item A from 1/1/2020 to 12/31/2024 and the effect on the Unemployment Trust Fund:

- Total DWB benefits paid: \$ 1,992,932
- Annual Average: \$ 398,586

- F. The number of persons in item A participating in training while receiving dislocated worker unemployment benefits under 26 M.R.S. §1196 who had previously completed a training program while receiving dislocated worker unemployment benefits during a prior benefit year, including the length of time between those enrollments:

Total Number of Previously Training Period	14
Average Length of Time between Enrollment	0.8 year

Summary: Dislocated Worker Benefits are available to individuals who are in an approved training program, approved by the Department, and who have exhausted all rights to regular or other federal extended unemployment benefits. The payment of these benefits do **not** show to have had a significant impact on the Unemployment Trust Fund or impact on the Unemployment Contribution (Tax) Rate Schedules over the last 5 years.