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## Commerce Department Connects 100,000 Unemployment Insurance Claimants to Job Services, Reduces Fraud

**RALEIGH** — The Department of Commerce has provided more than 100,000 people claiming unemployment insurance benefits with face-to-face job search services, thanks to an initiative launched last spring that has both helped people connect to jobs and reduced UI fraud.

In March 2014, the Division of Employment Security (DES) and Division of Workforce Solutions (DWS) launched the Employability Assessment Interview (EAI) program to help unemployment insurance claimants find jobs. As a part of this program and other similar programs, individuals work with staff at their career centers throughout North Carolina to develop a reemployment plan and register for the job search portal NCWorks Online. They also receive referrals to jobs and access to training workshops. Claimants are required to present their work search records and a photo ID within four weeks of receiving benefits. Unemployed individuals are required by law to attend these interviews as a condition of continuing eligibility for receiving unemployment insurance.

Failure to attend the EAI could result in a denial or delay of unemployment insurance benefits.

“For those claimants attending these interviews, it’s a great opportunity,” said Division of Employment Security Assistant Secretary Dale Folwell. “They are presented with great tools to enhance their job search effort. Meanwhile, we are stopping those attempting to fraud the system by cutting off their benefits in a very short amount of time when they fail to show up for the interview. From a process integrity standpoint, it’s one of the most important changes in the North Carolina unemployment insurance program this century.”

If a claimant misses an interview, they have the option of rescheduling it. However, their benefits may be delayed.

“We don’t have unemployment offices in North Carolina — we have NCWorks Career Centers,” said Will Collins, Assistant Secretary of Workforce. “Through initiatives like the EAI program, we’re meeting with people, helping them to create career plans, and putting them back to work. As a result, we’re helping employers find the talent they need to succeed and strengthening the economy of our great state.”

Claimants who need more information about unemployment insurance can visit the DES website at [www.ncesc.com](http://www.ncesc.com).

Individuals interested in applying for jobs, finding training resources, and visiting their nearest NCWorks Career Center can visit [www.ncworks.gov](http://www.ncworks.gov).

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This information may be accessed on the DES World Wide Web page, at <http://www.ncesc.com>