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1. Are any of the 46 SC Work Centers being shut down?

No. DEW does not have the authority to shut down centers. Centers are operated by the local Workforce Investment Board (WIB). Unemployment Insurance (UI) Services are still being offered and claims continue to be made at the SC Works centers in the resource room. Beginning Feb. 19, there will be user guides, instructional materials and staff to answer basic questions. Please be reminded that 98% of all claims are filed online.

3. Which SC Work Centers are going to be offering in-person UI services *for HUKP?*

The Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program is a federal program and the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) requires claimants receiving EUC benefits complete a minimum of one Reemployment Eligibility Assessment (REA). During an REA, a claimant will receive an UI eligibility review and one on one reemployment services. Some examples of reemployment services include labor market information, skills assessment, job coaching, resume review and job search assistance. This is a federal requirement for those receiving EUC benefits.

The following SC Works Centers will continue to offer in-person UI services: Aiken, Anderson, Barnwell, Beaufort, Bennettsville, Camden, Clinton, Conway, Florence, Gaffney, Georgetown, Greenwood, Hartsville, Lancaster, Lexington, Liberty, Marion, Midlands, Moncks Corner, Newberry, Orangeburg, Rock Hill, Seneca, Summerville, Sumter and Walterboro.

There will still be resource rooms available with computer access for UI claimants to file claims and conduct online work searches. *In all SC work centers* A user guide and other tutorials of the automated services will be provided in the resource rooms. In addition, UI claimants can still file their weekly report via telephone as they do currently.

Resource rooms with computer access will be available at the impacted centers during the operating hours. For a list of locations and operating hours go to www.scworks.org

In South Carolina, there are three UI Claims centers located in Charleston, Greenville and Spartanburg. They will continue offering the same services.

2. Why are the services being regionalized? *in-person restructuring?*

The South Carolina unemployment rate has decreased; therefore, there is a reduction in UI claims. This results in fewer staff needed to process these claims. DEW has seen a significant reduction in UI claims due to the declining unemployment rate. The volume *of claims* in these smaller centers and satellite locations *have declined* are also reduced eliminating the need to staff these locations with UI personnel. Please be reminded that 98% of all UI claims are filed online.

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4. What is the breakdown of DEW employees affected by this change?

in UI services

Within the 17 impacted centers, only eight employees were ~~affected~~ ^{*laid off due to*} by the change. The remaining employees were from the larger SC Works Centers and the Central Office. Below is a breakdown of ~~remaining~~ affected employees. As the chart indicates, the majority of the affected employees were from the central office in Columbia.

Local SC Centers: ^{*28?*} 20 employees
-24 Temporary Grant/Probationary
-3 FTE
-1 TERI

Central Office: 29 employees

-8 Temporary Grant
-12 FTE
-9 TERI

5. Over the past two years how much has the unemployment rate dropped in South Carolina?

In December 2010, South Carolina's unemployment rate was 10.7%. In December 2012, the unemployment rate was 8.4%.

6. In January 28, 2011, DEW processed ^{*67,125 regular state UI*} ~~122,627~~ claims as compared to processing ^{*38,141*} ~~60,104~~ unemployment claims in January 2013. What are the dollar amounts associated with these claims?

January 2011: ^{*67,125*} ~~122,627~~ claims equals \$43,786,770
January 2013: ^{*38,141*} ~~60,104~~ claims equals \$22,227,624

7. Where does the funding come from? Is there a formula?

The UI program administrative funding comes from the federal government--United States Department of Labor (DOL). ^{*The*} Our funding is based on UI claims and the work load generated by those claims. ~~(DEW does not request funding from DOL.)~~ DOL determines the formula and provides funding based on claim levels. 

the higher # included federal extensions while \$ figure did not -pple comparison, (need apple to apple)

regionalized
~~restructured~~

8. What are the percentage of statewide claims by the offices that are being regionalize for in-person ^{UI} services (show by numbers and claims). What percentage of the total number of statewide UI claims doe ^s that represent?

Office	Claimants Receiving Letter	Percent of Statewide Claims	Avg. Monthly Initial Claims
Abbeville	584	1.0%	150
Chester	889	1.5%	137
Hampton	425	0.7%	64
Kingstree	1,200	2.0%	251
Union	858	1.4%	124
Allendale	184	0.3%	35
Bamberg	80	0.1%	3
Chesterfield	344	0.6%	107
Dillon	645	1.1%	137
Edgefield	84	0.1%	4
Manning	222	0.4%	28
McCormick	47	0.1%	2
Ridgeland	286	0.5%	72
Saluda	63	0.1%	4
Winnsboro	561	0.9%	123
Bishopville	0	0.0%	0
St. Matthew's	0	0.0%	0
Total	6,472	10.8%	1,241

in the 46 SC WORK CENTERS

9. Are the hours of operations changing? Who makes those decisions?

No. The local WIB operates the SC Works Centers and determines the hours of operations. To see center locations and operational hours, please go to www.scworks.org.

10. What is ~~and the~~ ^{(EB) the} Extended Benefits and ^(EUC) Emergency Unemployment Compensation program?

Extended Benefits (EB) provided an additional 16 weeks of ~~Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC)~~ ^{Federally funded Unemp. compens.} for the long term unemployed who had exhausted the four tiers of EUC. Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) provided federally funded unemployment compensation benefits in four tiers.

11. Why were these programs ended and/or reduced?

As the unemployment rate has declined and Congress has amended both the EB and the EUC programs, the actual numbers of weeks have decreased for EUC and been eliminated for EB. In April 2012, the funding for Extended Benefits was eliminated due to South Carolina's January 2012 unemployment rate of 9.3% and made South Carolina ineligible to continue the EB program. Each state's participation in the EB program is dependent upon a ~~series of~~ its monthly unemployment rates ~~being higher than national level.~~

Due to a further reduction in South Carolina's unemployment rate, the state phased out in January 2013 tier 4 of EUC.

12. What are the unemployment rates ~~by state~~ in the Southeast?

State	DEC
AL	7.1
FL	8.0
GA	8.6
KY	8.1
MS	8.6
NC	9.2
SC	8.4

TN	7.6
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NOTE: This chart represents the U.S. Department of Labor's definition of Southeastern states.

13. Are other states with low unemployment regionalizing some of their local offices?

Florida, Michigan, Mississippi, Alabama, Illinois, Texas, and Ohio are some of the states that have deployed similar reduction strategies.

According to National Association of State Workforce Agencies, layoffs have occurred in Arizona California, Michigan and Rhode Island. Of the 40 states that responded to the association's December survey, 22 said they planned to cut staffing levels this year. The total reduction at those agencies will amount to the equivalent of 1,255 fewer full-time jobs, according to the survey.

14. Has the agency requested a raise for ^{DEW's} the executive director?

No. DEW ^{did not request or has} ~~does not have~~ the authority to establish or increase the Agency Head's salary. The Agency Head Salary Commission has designated a pay range for the position.

The established range is as follows:

Minimum: \$130,918
 Midpoint: \$166,351
 Maximum: \$202,941

Abraham J. Turner began serving as DEW's Executive Director on September 1, 2011 with an annual salary of \$134,227. John L. Finan, former Executive Director for DEW was also paid \$134.227 annually. Effective November 13, 2012, the Agency Head Salary Commission awarded a 7% increase to raise the salary to \$143,623 annually. S.C. DEW does not choose ~~or request~~ the executive director's salary. That is determined only by the Agency Head Salary Commission. According to its website, one of the primary reasons for creating the Commission was for the purpose of recommending agency head pay based on performance. In addition, they are also responsible for recommending salary increases for agency heads.

15. Has the agency asked for a 60 percent increase in total administrative salaries for next year?

No. The agency has not requested additional spending authority for administrative salaries. DEW has requested a 16.2% reduction in administrative salaries for FY 14. The workload for DEW has significantly decreased therefore, we have reduced our personnel costs.