

MEMORANDUM

TO: UI FIELD OPERATIONS DIRECTOR, CAREER CENTER FIELD OPERATIONS DIRECTOR, UITCC DIRECTORS, UITCC MANAGERS, AREA DIRECTORS & WALK-IN CENTER MANAGERS

FROM: PAUL CONNOLLY, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, UI POLICY & DETERMINATIONS

SUBJECT: UI ELIGIBILITY FOR ENROLEES IN APPRENTICE TRAINING PROGRAMS

DATE: JANUARY 8, 2010

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Apprenticeship Training (DAT) is responsible for promoting the development of training in skilled occupations and related training policies and practices used by employers, unions, and other organizations.

Any apprentice who is participating in a DAT-approved apprentice training program and who is otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits is eligible to receive such benefits for any week during which he or she is otherwise unemployed and participates in such a training program. Such participants are not subject to disqualification pursuant to M. G. L. chapter 151A, §24(b) and its requirements relating to the individual's availability for work or active search for work. In addition, participants in DAT-approved apprentice training programs are not subject to disqualification pursuant to §25(c) for any refusal to accept an offer of suitable work occurring while participating in such a training program.

The DAT issues a mandatory identification card (Apprentice Photo ID) to approved apprenticeship training program participants. When necessary, copies of such documents may be requested from the claimant in order to verify the status of the individual or program.

Applications for training approval pursuant to M. G. L. chapter 151A, §30 will not be necessary. Apprentice training programs are typically conducted on a short term intermittent basis. A participant may, for example, attend training for several periods of two-weeks each over a period of months or years. Approval pursuant to §30 would be inappropriate.

Apprentice training program participants often receive a stipend to defray costs associated with their participation in the training program. Such costs may include travel, lodging, meals, equipment, materials or other expenses incurred by participants. Such stipends are not considered to be earnings and need not be reported by the individual when filing a continued claim for benefits.

INQUIRIES: Please contact the Determinations Department at 617-626-6422 with any questions you may have regarding this memorandum.