



U.S. Department of Justice National Unemployment Insurance Fraud Task Force Fraudulent Websites/Links and Phishing

Public Release

March 4, 2021

The Department of Justice's National Unemployment Insurance Fraud Task Force (NUIFTF) is issuing this alert to warn the public about fraudsters who are creating websites that mimic government, unemployment insurance (UI) benefit websites, including state workforce agency (SWA) websites. Individuals who wish to file for UI benefits are lured to these fraudulent websites. These websites trick people into disclosing personally identifiable information and other sensitive data. Fraudsters often use this information to commit identity theft.

Fraudsters are also sending spam text messages and emails with links purporting to be from SWAs. Individuals should never click links in text messages or emails claiming to be from an SWA offering the opportunity to apply for UI benefits, unless it is from a known and verified source. Instead, always go to the official SWA website and navigate to your SWA's UI application page. This information can be found at:

<https://www.careeronestop.org/localhelp/unemploymentbenefits/unemployment-benefits.aspx>

If you receive a text message or email claiming to be from an SWA and containing a link or other contact information, please report the communication to the National Center for Disaster Fraud by calling (866) 720-5721 or visiting www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud.

If you believe you may have entered information into a fraudulent website, resources on how to protect your information can be found at www.identitytheft.gov.

To find out more about UI fraud and the NUIFTF visit <https://www.justice.gov/file/1319301/download>.

Individuals with information about this scheme or other UI fraud should call (202) 693-6999 or (800) 347-3756, or go to <https://www.oig.dol.gov/hotline.htm>.