

**New Rules
to Receive Unemployment Insurance Benefits
Take Effect January 1st**

December 2--On November 14th, the Colorado Department of Labor & Employment (CDLE) held a rule-making hearing to discuss proposed changes to current regulations regarding eligibility requirements for laid-off workers actively seeking employment while receiving unemployment insurance benefits.

The CDLE's actions were based on its discovery of a large number of improper payments that have been issued to individuals claiming unemployment insurance benefits who may not have been following work-search requirements.

As of November 14th, the proposed changes have been adopted and the rules will take effect January 1, 2012. The new rules include the following changes:

- Definitions and guidelines of what represents a work search;
- Requirement of claimants to maintain a written record of contacts they made while seeking work and defines the length of time the record must be maintained;
- Provides that failure to make the required number of job contacts could result in disallowance of benefits; and
- Provides for formal warnings to claimants that fail to meet the work-search requirements. Once the warning is issued, the claim is flagged for future auditing and potential suspension of benefits.

CACI believes these changes are important steps toward deterring improper payments being made to individuals who may not have met the Colorado's requirements to receive such benefits. CACI applauds the Department's efforts to enact these important rulemaking changes.

CACI members with questions or concerns should contact Loren Furman, CACI Vice President of Governmental Affairs, at lfurman@COchamber.com or at 303.866.9642.