

Lost Wages Assistance Program Sample State Letter

From Washington State:

Good morning,

The Employment Security Department (ESD) will be deploying the Lost Wages Assistance Program here in Washington State later this month with pay outs happening the week of Sept. 21, 2020 ([Lost Wage Assistance Program Announcement](#)). ESD has requested that we provide this notification to help ensure that funds are successfully deposited into claimants' accounts.

As required by FEMA, the funds will not come from ESD's regular Key Bank account, but rather, from a new and separate account – although it will still be marked "WA ST EMPLOY SEC UI BENEFIT".

Financial Institutions in Washington have been on alert to unexpected, and potentially fraudulent, deposits related to unemployment insurance. Thus, we wanted to let you know to expect an inflow of deposits — and please remember that if you have any questions or concerns about specific claims, you can reach out to ESD on the previously shared special channel, details below. **We appreciate your efforts as we want to avoid having claimants' deposits rejected when not fraudulent.**

Should a financial institution need to reach the Washington ESD, regarding a claim:

- **Email:** ESDGPFFraudbank@esd.wa.gov
- **Include in that email:**
 - **The full name of the claimant/account holder**
 - **The Bank account number for deposit**

Sample situations when this might be relevant:

- The financial institution believes they received a fraudulent payment from Washington ESD. They can email the information above, and ESD can quickly investigate to provide a determination on the legitimacy of the funds.
- A customer of the financial institution has received an unusually large deposit from ESD and the financial institution raises a flag for which the bank would ordinarily send it back. Again ESD can quickly verify the efficacy of the transaction.

Thank you for your assistance and partnership in helping the citizens of Washington receive these important benefits.

Hope you, your family and team are well,

Roberta Hollinshead

Director of Banks – WA DFI

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