

Beware of Text Scams

Date: July 12, 2022

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) is aware of a recent scam attempting to gain personal information by falsely claiming additional benefits are available from the Department of Labor (DOL). Texans are warned not to provide any personally identifiable information or transact any business except through TWC's Unemployment Benefits Services (UBS) portal, fraud portal, Tele-Serv (automated phone system) or Tele-Centers. **Do not click on any link provided in a text.**

TWC received information of a scam phone text message saying "You may be eligible for the new U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR COVID-19 SUPPLEMENT BONUS. \$5,700 could be direct deposited into your account. Click the link below to apply."

This text message is a scam. There is no such "COVID-19 supplement bonus" and the Department of Labor does not send text messages or emails inviting individuals to apply for unemployment benefits. Any new unemployment benefit program must be approved by Congress and each state's employment security agency, such as TWC, would be responsible for administering payments.

You should not click on any link provided by text messages, and if unsure, contact TWC to verify the legitimacy of the information.

- UBS home page: ui.texasworkforce.org or twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/unemployment-benefits-services
- UBS log on page: apps.twc.state.tx.us/UBS/security/logon.do
- TWC official website: twc.texas.gov

All Texans should take steps to secure their identity online by practicing Internet security best practices. Treat your TWC account and all accounts like you would your bank account. TWC will investigate every unemployment benefit claim to confirm identity and to lock accounts that are fraudulent.