UI Solvency: What’s An Advocate To Do?

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Pa’s UI Trust Fund Is Broke!

- Pa. has excellent eligibility provisions (58% of unemployed get UI, compared to 37% nationally)
- But taxable wage base of $8,000, since 1984
- Current recession comes around; guess what? Red ink galore!
What’s Happening In Pennsylvania on Solvency

- UC Advisory Commission has been negotiating
- UIMA funds have been held hostage to these discussions
Why Solvency Matters to CLS

- Benefits may be cut/eligibility changed
- Employee taxes could be part of the fix –
good and bad aspects
- We want the UIMA!
Solvency: What Advocates Can Do

- Support the program! Remind decision-makers that it is popular right now!
- Make sure that claimant stakeholders are broader than labor (or that there are claimant stakeholders)
- Provide technical assistance
- Present realities of proposals (client stories illustrating severance proposals)
Solvency: Provide Helpful Information

– It’s Not Just About the Red Ink

☐ Unemployment rates (especially key areas of state)
☐ No. of claims during recession
☐ Low amount of benefits (compare to FPG)
☐ Relatively low cost of benefits to employers
☐ Have your employers been getting a free ride?

NELP/USDOL website as resources