State of Alaska
Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Division: Employment and Training Services	**Policy:** 07- 537
Subject: Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP); Mature Alaskans Seeking Skills Training (MASST) Wages in Regards to Unemployment Insurance	**Pages:** 2
Reference: Senior Community Service Employment Program; AS 23.20.526(d)(3); AS 23.20.530 Wages Defined; AS 23.20.525 Employment: Defined; AS 23.20.505 Unemployed Defined; and AS 23.20.360 Earnings Deducted from Weekly Benefit amount; 20 CFR Parts Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act	**Effective:** 9/14/18

Approved: _Patsy Westcott_   _9/14/18_
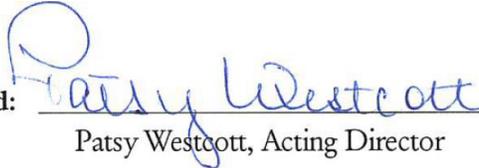
Patsy Westcott, Acting Director   Date
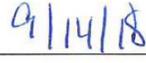
1. **Parties Affected:**

   This policy applies to Alaska Department of Labor staff and recipients of Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), Older Americans Act Title V Funds administered through Division of Employment and Training Services (DETS). The program is known in Alaska as Mature Alaskans Seeking Skills Training (MASST).

2. **Background:**

   SCSEP is funded under Title V of the Older Americans Act and assists older workers (55 and over) in obtaining regular unsubsidized jobs through counseling, job search assistance, support services, and community service job training. Eligible participants may be enrolled in on-the-job, community service training an average of 20 hours per week through a "host agency" and be paid at the federal or state minimum wage or the prevailing wage, whichever is greater; or attend other remedial skill training that will increase their opportunity for unsubsidized employment.

3. **Policy:**

   Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development staff and recipients of Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) grant funds, will ensure that MASST participants are aware of how MASST wages impact Unemployment Insurance (UI).

   Qualifying for a UI Claim

Alaska Statute (AS) AS 23.20.525 defines employment as service performed by an individual for wages and AS 23.20.526 lists exclusions from this definition. As defined in AS 23.20.526(d)(3), the term employment does not apply to service performed for a nonprofit organization, governmental agency or for a federally recognized tribe as part of a work-relief or work-training program assisted or financed in whole or in part by a state agency, political subdivision of the state or federal agency or federally recognized tribe. MASST wages fall into this category. Therefore, these federal work relief wages are not considered wages in "covered employment" and cannot be used as base period wages to establish an UI claim.

Wage Impact on UI Weekly Benefit Amount

AS 23.20.530 defines wages as "...all remuneration for services from whatever source, including, but not limited to, insured work, uninsured work, or self-employment." Under MASST, participants may be enrolled in on-the-job community service training and assigned specific work schedules and work hours by the host site approved by the program. Payment received for services performed during on-the-job community service training are considered wages and therefore are deductible from the claimant's weekly UI entitlement.

MASST participants may be paid for attending training specific to their community service assignment or other remedial skill training that will increase their opportunity for unsubsidized employment. This form of training can be provided through lectures, seminars, classroom, or individual instruction offered through local resources, including other employment-training programs. If, during a given week, a claimant attended classroom training or some other activity that did not involve the performance of a community service, then that portion of the earnings is not considered wages and should not be deducted from their weekly UI entitlement.

UI Training Waiver of Availability

MASST on-the-job community service training is not considered training for the purposes of allowing claimants a training waiver of availability. To be eligible for MASST a worker must be able and available for work.