

# How to Apply for Work Share TOOLKIT

Michigan's Work Share program allows employers to restart their business and bring employees back from unemployment.

Employers can bring employees back with reduced hours while employees collect partial unemployment benefits to make up a portion of the lost wages. Employers can also retain their current workforce and are given the flexibility to choose which of their employees are part of a Work Share plan.

### **INTRODUCING WORK SHARE**

Michigan's Work Share program allows employers to keep employees working with reduced hours, while employees collect partial unemployment benefits to make up a portion of the lost wages.

By participating in Work Share, employers can retain trained employees and avoid the expenses of recruiting, hiring, and training new employees.

With the Work share program, unemployment benefits are based on a percentage of the reduced hours of work and pay. The reduction in work hours must result in an equivalent reduction in wages.

### **Advantages of Work Share**

Minimizes or eliminates the need for layoffs

Enables a business to retain trained employees and avoid the expense of recruiting, hiring and training new employees

Saves money and keeps your skilled workforce intact

Can be used in almost all types of business or industry

Employees are spared the hardship of full unemployment and get more income than if they were fully laid off

#### **Eligibility Requirements**

As a result of Executive Order 2020-57, Work Share program eligibility requirements have been expanded. To participate in Work Share:

- All employees in the affected unit must participate in the plan.
- A plan must include a minimum of two employees.
- Plan may be approved for a period of up to 52 consecutive weeks.
- Employee work hours may be reduced by a minimum of 10% up to a maximum 60%
- Work Share does not apply to seasonal, temporary, or intermittent employment.

#### **How it Works**

Example of the calculation of work share plan Benefit: While weekly benefits rates vary from person to person, if a worker was fully unemployed, their weekly benefit amount would be, for example, \$360. Under the Work Share program, a worker whose hours were reduced by 10 percent would receive a Work Share benefit payment of \$36 (\$360 x 10%) in addition to their wages. Employees participating in Work Share due to COVID 19 are also eligible to receive the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC) of \$600.00 per week in addition to their Work Share benefit.

### **How to Apply**

Employers may file an application online through the <u>Michigan Web Account Manager (MiWAM)</u> at michigan.gov/uia.

For more information about Work Share, visit <u>Michigan.gov/workshare</u> or call the Office of Employer Ombudsman at 1-855-484-2636 or call 1-844-WORKSHR (967-5747).

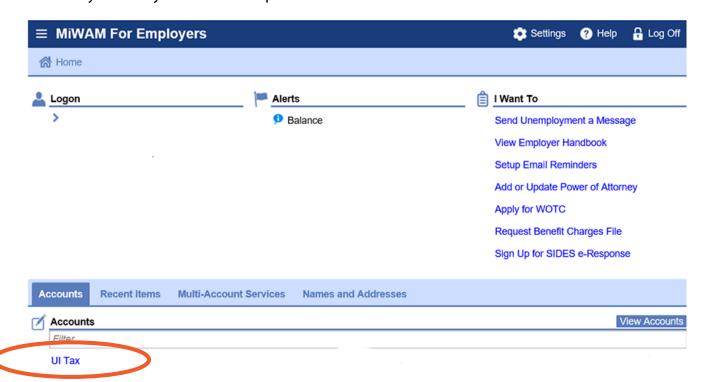
**How to Apply for Workshare video tutorial** 



### EMPLOYERS CAN APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK SHARE PROGRAM THROUGH THEIR MIWAM ACCOUNT.



Go to Michigan.gov/uia and click on For Employers. Then Login to MiWAM for Employers. Once in your account, click UI Tax. If you have more than one account, be sure to click the account that you want your Work Share plan on.





Under I WANT TO, click the Register for Work Share Plans hyperlink.







Review the Work Share eligibility and agree to the terms and conditions.

Work-Share Registration 2. Review and Submit

#### Work-Share Registration

#### Work-Share Enrollment Eligibility

Welcome to the UIA Work Share Application

Work Share is a program that permits employers to maintain operational productivity during declines in regular business activity instead of laying off workers. With this plan, rather than being laid off, eligible employers work a reduced number of hours in the work week and receive a portion of weekly unemployment benefits.

For the time period of 3/15/2020 - 8/1/2020 work share is available to any employer who has been in business at least 12 quarters.

Before completing the application, review the filing requirements for submitting your file of covered workers (see Work Share Plan Covered Employees File Format). This gives the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) the information needed to complete the enrollment of the workers in your plan. Your completed file must be submitted with your application.

Once your Plan is approved, you will need to submit a file every two weeks directing the UIA to pay benefits to the employees participating in your work share Plan (see Bi-Weekly Work Share Certification file format).

#### IMPORTANT NOTE

- When applying for work share, a "Yes" response should be provided if your business ceased or limited operation because of a government directive related to Covid-19. Charges to your account will be transferred to the Non-chargeable Benefit Account (NBA), if applicable.
- 2. All other employer's account will be charged 100% of benefits paid through an approved work share plan.
- 3. The Agency will charge the unemployment account for the requesting employer in the following manner.
  - a. Contributing Employers: Benefits charged to your account under a work share plan will affect your state unemployment tax rate.
  - Reimbursing Employers: Benefits paid to workers under a work share plan will be charged on your billing statement.

If you have questions, contact the Unemployment Insurance Agency's Work Share Hotline at 1-844-WORKSHR (1-844-967-5757) or contact the Office of Employer Ombudsman (OEO) at 1-855-484-2636. TTY customers call 1-866-366-0004.



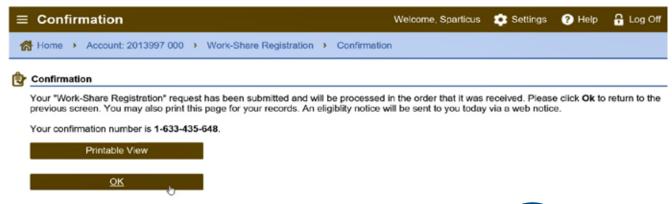
View File Format: Work-Share Plan covered Employees File Format

View File Format: Bi-Weekly Work-Share Certification File Format





You will see a confirmation page. Click OK. Your Work Share registration request has been submitted. You will receive a web notice indicating your eligibility.

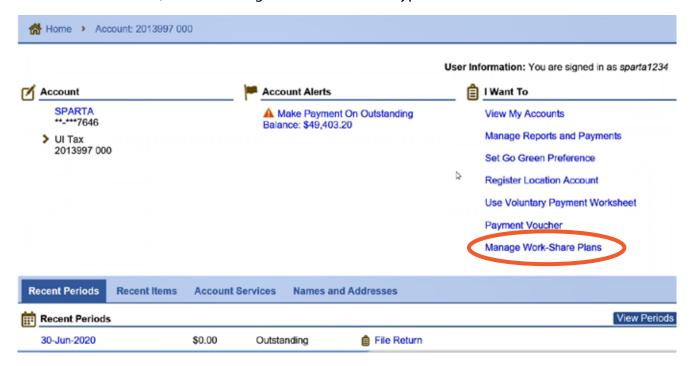






Next, you will need to answer a series of questions to determine if your proposed work share plan will be approved.

Under I WANT TO, click the Mange Work Share Plans hyperlink.





Next, click Work Share Plan Application.



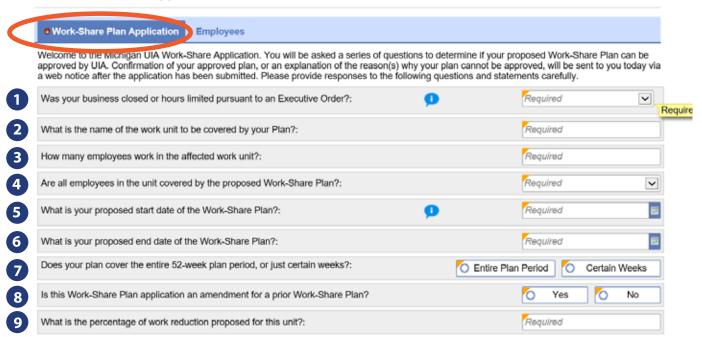




Answer the series of questions. Next, you will need to answer a series of questions to determine if your proposed work share plan will be approved.



#### Work-Share Plan Application



- **1. Was your business closed or hours limited to an Executive Order?** Governor Whitmer signed several <u>executive orders</u> ordering the closing of certain businesses.
- 2. What is the name of the work unit to be covered by your Plan?

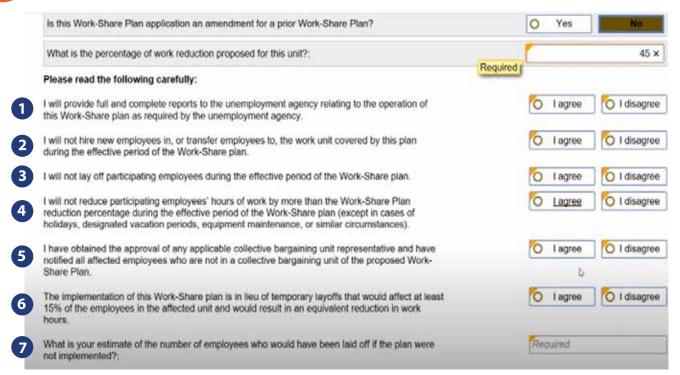
  Employers are given flexibility to organize each work unit or work division they want to participate in Work Share. It can be a department, shift or organizational unit.
- **3.** How many employees work in the affected unit? There needs to be a minimum of two employees.
- 4. Are all employees in the unit covered by the proposed Work Share plan?
- 5. What is your proposed start date of the Work Share plan?
- 6. What is your proposed end date of the Work Share plan?
- 7. Does your plan cover the entire 52-week plan period, or just certain weeks?
- 8. Is this Work Share plan application an amendment for a prior Work Share plan?
- 9. What is the percentage of work reduction proposed for this unit?
  Under Work Share employers can choose to reduce employee hours between 10% and 60%





#### Agree to terms and conditions.

need to be submitted.

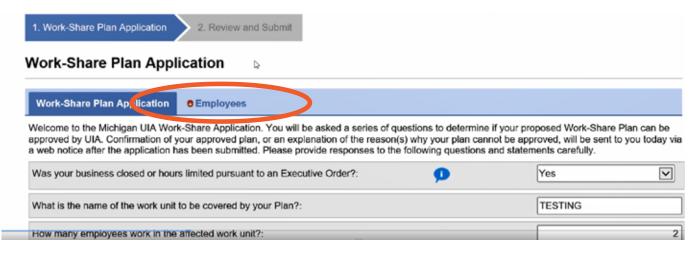


- I will provide full and complete reports to the unemployment agency relating to the operation of this Work Share plan as required by the unemployment agency.
   UIA may request a report of information about your work share plan including payroll records, employee notification, union agreements and more.
- 2. I will not hire new employees in, or transfer employees to the work unit covered by this plan during the effective period of the Work Share plan.
  A work unit is comprised of the employees included in your work share plan. Keep in mind that, if you later want to bring additional employees into the unit, you must terminate the plan and create a new one. You may also create an additional work share plan to add employees.
- 3. I will not lay off participating employees during the effective period of the Work Share plan.
  Layoffs during the term of a workshare agreement would void the agreement and a new plan would
- 4. I will not reduce participating employees' hours of work by more than the Work Share plan reduction percentage during the effective period of the work share plan.
- 5. I have obtained the approval of any applicable collective bargaining unit representative and have notified all affected employees who are not in a collective bargaining unit of the proposed Work Share plan.
- 6. Estimate of the number of employees who would have been fully laid off without Work Share. If you are reopening your business, estimate the number of employees who would continue to be laid off without a Work Share plan.
- 7. Finally, please include how you will give notice to your employees whose hours of work will be reduced under work share.
  - It is the employer's responsibility to inform their employees that they have been included in a work share plan.



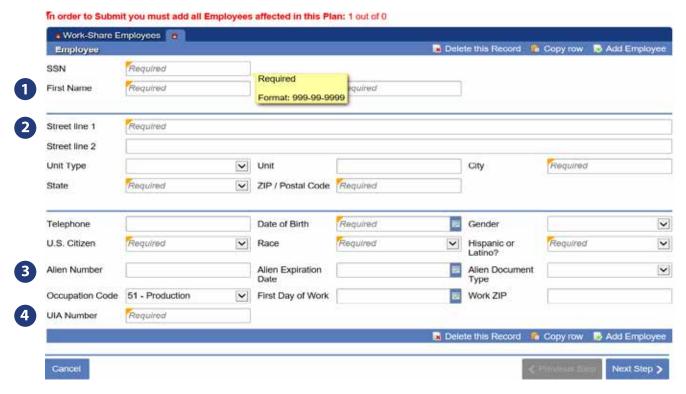


Next, you will need to enter the names and information for all of your employees who will be included in your Work Share plan. Back at the top of the screen, click Employees.





Enter each employee's name, social security number, address, and other identifying information. Please double check for accuracy to ensure a smooth process.

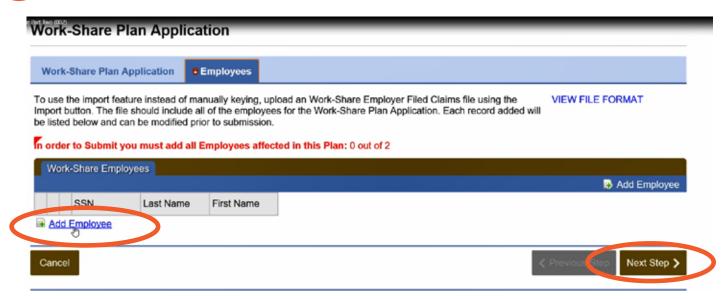


- **1. Employee name** Make sure you enter your employees' full name. For example: Matthew Jones, not Matt Jones.
- 2. Address Employees home address.
- **3.** Alien Number For employees who are not citizens of the United States, be sure to input the Alien Document type and expiration date.
- **4. UIA Number** the UIA number is your account number with the State of Michigan.





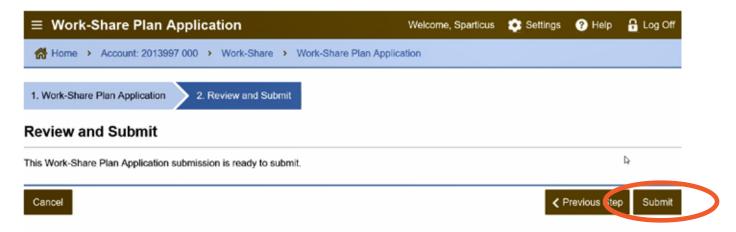
To enter more employees, click ADD Employees. When you're done adding employees, click NEXT Step.



Be sure you add all employees before you click NEXT STEP.



Then click SUBMIT.





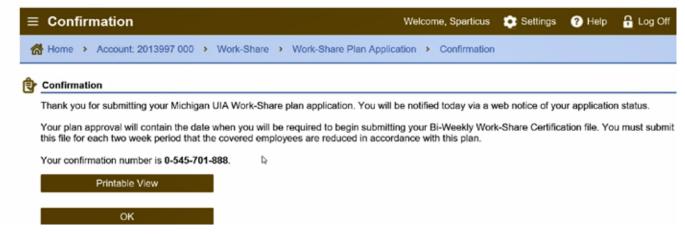


Then enter your MiWAM password to certify that the information you have entered is true. Click OK.





You will see a confirmation page.

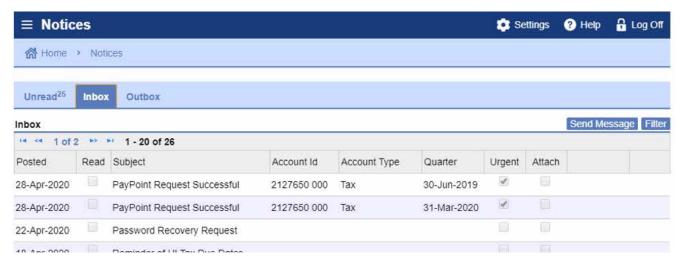




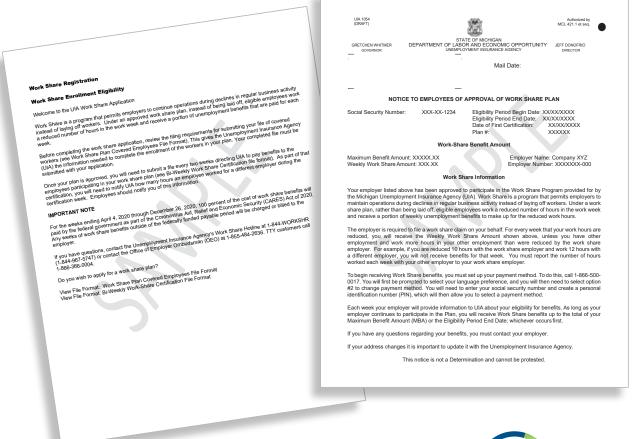
### NOTICES IN MIWAM



Whether approved or denied to participate in the Work Share program, the employer will receive a Notice in their MiWAM Inbox.



Examples of letters for Work Share Enrollment Eligibility and UIA 1054 Notice to Employees of Approval of Work Share Plan.





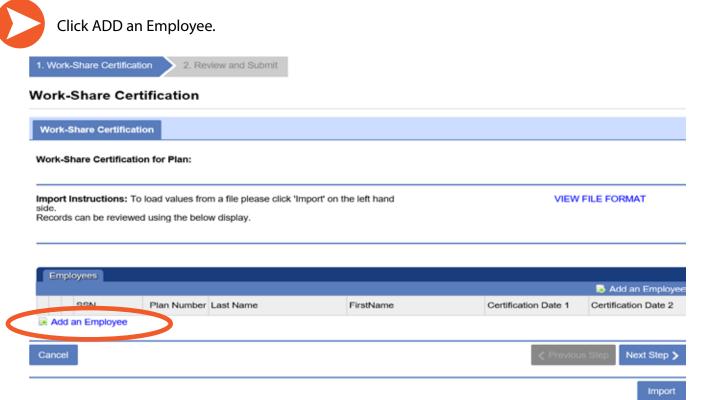
### **CERTIFICATION**



In order for your employees to be paid, you will need to certify your employees eligibility either weekly or bi-weekly.

On the date of you are to certify, log into your MiWAM account. Click UI Tax. Then click Manage Work Share Plans. Here you will see your Work Share plan. Click the File Certification Hyperlink.



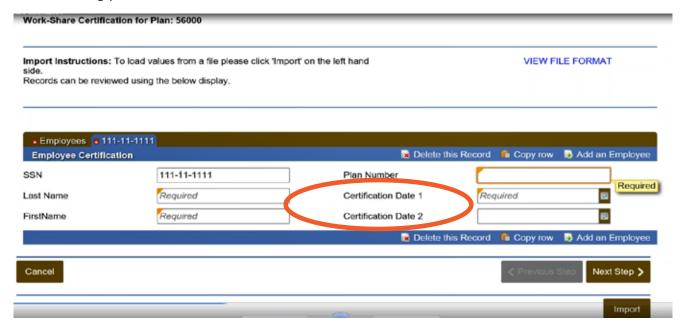






Add your employee's information. Be sure to include the Certification Date.

- Certification Date 1 is the first week for which you want your employee to be paid. If you
  are on a bi-weekly schedule, you will also input Certification Date 2, to pay both weeks.
- Each certification week begins on a Sunday and ends on a Saturday.
- Certification date 1 or 2 should be the Saturday of the week for which your employees are being paid.





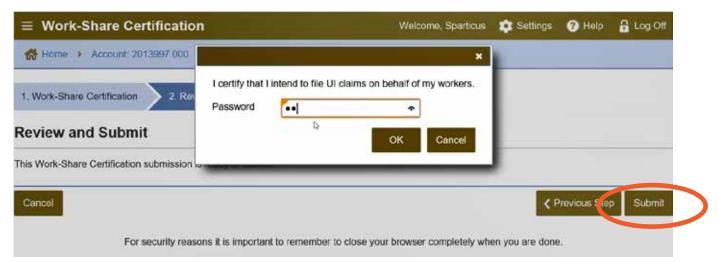
Click on Add an Employee to complete this section for each employee on the plan. When you have completed certification for each employee, click next step. Then click SUBMIT.

Work-Share Certification					
Work-Share Certification for	Plan:				
Import Instructions: To load values from a file please click 'Import' on the left hand side.  Records can be reviewed using the below display.					
• Employees • Employee Certification		🗷 Delete	e this Record 🏻 🔓 Copy row	Add an Employee	
SSN	Required	Plan Number	Required		
Last Name	Required	Required n Date 1	Required	100	
FirstName	Required	Format: 999-99-9999 Certification Date 2			
		▶ Delete	e this Record 🏻 🔓 Cop (row	Add an Employee	
Cancel			< Previous	Step Next Step >	



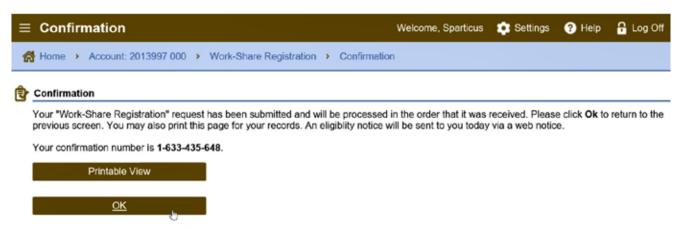


### Enter your MiWAM password. Then click SUBMIT.





Your Work Share certification request has been submitted.



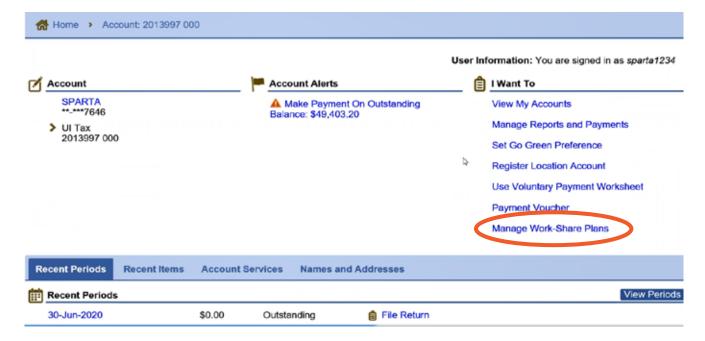


### **BULK UPLOAD**



Bulk filing is an option for inputting multiple employee files at once.

Your bulk file will need to be created according to the specified file format. To view the specifications, Click on Manage work share plans;





Click work share plan application; scroll to the bottom of the page and click View Employee List.

What is your not impleme	estimate of the number of employees who would have been laid off if the plan were nted?:	Required
How will you	give advance notice to an employee whose hours of work per week under the plan will be rec	duced (e.g. Email, Meetings, Notice Posting)?
	Required	
	hare plan does not affect the fringe benefits of any participating employee.	I agree I list list below and then
	the application process, upload the Work-Share Covered Workers file by first clicking the "Vie e file. Once the file has been uploaded press "Submit" to complete the application.	w Employee List* link below and then
VIEW EMPL	OYEE LIST	
Cancel		⟨ Previous Step
		Import





Then click View File Format to view the specifications. Your file will need to be in a .txt format.





This sample show the specifications to create a bulk file.

### Work-Share Filed Claims - File Specifications

This document outlines the file specifications for Work-Share Filed Claims through Work-Share Program. Files using this format can only be submitted through the MiWAM Employer Account Work-Share Plan Application.

#### **Layout Specifications**

#### Overview

#### Max file size is 5 megabytes.

The Work-Share Filed Claim is submitted on the Employer account from which the web request is made.

#### **Employee Detail Record**

Each record represents a single claim.

Location	Field Name	Width	Description		
1-9	Social Security Number	9	Required. Employee's Social Security number. Must be all digits. Do not include the dashes.		
10-39	Last Name	30	Required. Last name of the employee.		
40-64	First name	25	Required. First name of the employee.		
65-94	Street Address 1	30	Employee's address.  Required. Street Address 1, City, State/Province and ZIP/Postal Code.		
95-124	Street Address 2	30	Acceptable Unit Types:  APT = Apartment  BLD = Building		
125-127	Unit Type	3	BSE = Basement LOW = Lower PEN = Penthouse		
128-137	Unit	10	ROM = Room STP = Stop TRL = Trailer UNT = Unit		
138-157	City	20	UPP = Upper  If Country is USA then US ZIP Code is Required.		
158-159	State or Province code	2	Acceptable US ZIP Code formats:  99999 99999-9999 999999999  If Country is Canada then Canadian Postal Code is Required.		
160-169	ZIP or Postal code	10	Acceptable Canadian Postal Code formats: A9A 9A9 A9A9A9		
170-179	Telephone	10	Area code and telephone number where the employee can be contacted while laid off. Usually a home phone number. This field is recommended though not required.  Do not include any formatting: (269) 965-2200 should be sent as 2699652200.		
180-187	DOB	8	Required. Employee's date of birth. Format is MMDDCCYY where MM is the month, DD is the day, and CCYY is the century and year.		
188	Gender	1	Employee's gender: F=Female M=Male U or [Space]=Unavailable		
189	U.S. Citizen	1	Required. Is the employee a United States citizen? Y=Yes N=No		
190-192	Allen Document Type	3	Required, if the Employee is NOT a U.S. Citizen.  Type of Alien Documentation:  179 = I-179 US Resident Card  020 = I-20 Certificate of Eligibility, Student Status  327 = I-327 Re-entry Permit  545 = FS-545 Certification of Birth Aboard  551 = I-551 Permanent Resident Card  571 = I-571 Refugee Travel Document  776 = I-776 Employment Authorization Card  094 = I-94 Arrival/Departure Record		





#### Bulk File Specifications sample continued from previous page

		_	
193-202	Alien Document Number	10	Required, if the Employee is NOT a U.S. Citizen. Allen Number associated with the document.
203-210	Alien Document Expiration Date	8	Required, if the Employee is NOT a U.S. Citizen. Expiration date associated with the Alien Documentation. Format is MMDDCCYY where MM is the month, DD is the day, and CCYY is the century and year.
211	Race	1	Required. Employee's race: A=Asian B=Black or African American I=Native American or Alaskan Native P=Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian W=White T=Two or more races O=Native American or Alaskan Native U or [Space]=Unavaliable
212	Hispanic or Latino?	1	Is the employee Hispanic or Latino? Y=Yes N=No U or [Space]=Unavailable
213-220	First day of work	8	Date the employee started working for the employer. This field is recommended though not required. Format is MMDDCCYY where MM is the month, DD is the day, and CCYY is the century and year.
221-222	Occupation Code	2	Employee's occupation code. A table of valid occupation codes follows this section. This field is recommended though not required.
223-232	Work ZIP Code	10	Acceptable US ZIP Code formats: 99999 99999-9999 99999999999999999999
233-242	UIA Account Number	10	Required. UIA Employer Account Number. 10 digit with no spaces.

### Standard Occupational Classifications

Production, Transportation, and Material Moving

- 51 Production 53 Transportation

#### Sales and Office

- 41 Sales and Related Occupations
- 43 Office, Administrative and Support

### Natural Resources, Construction, etc. 45 Farming, Fishing and Forestry

- 47 Construction and Extraction
- 49 Installation, Maintenance and Repair

#### Service

- 31 Healthcare Support
- 33 Protective Support
- 35 Food Preparation and Serving Related
- 37 Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance
- 39 Personal Care and Service

- Management, etc. #1
  11 Management
  13 Business and Financial Operations
  - 15 Computer and Mathematical
  - 17 Architecture and Engineering
  - 19 Life, Physical and Social Science

#### Management, etc. #2

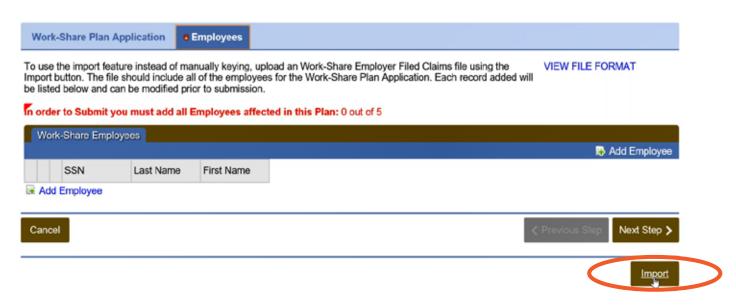
- 21 Community and Social Services

- 23 Legal
  25 Education, Training and Library
  27 Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports and Media
- 29 Healthcare Professionals and Technical



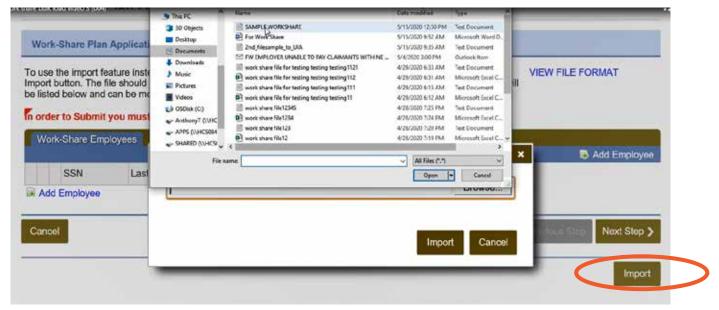


#### To input a bulk file click Employees, then click Import.





#### Select your file. Then click import.

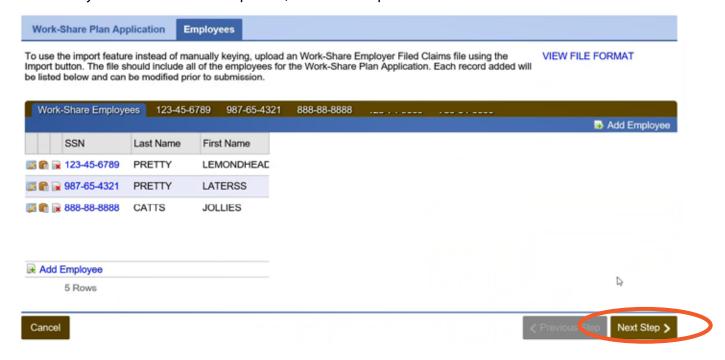






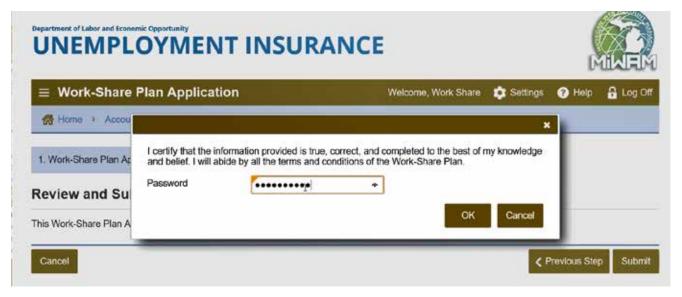
Under Employees, you will see information for each of your employees. The records can be modified prior to submission. If there is an "x" next to an employee record, there is an error that needs to be corrected. Click the employee record to correct the file.

After your files have been imported, click next step.

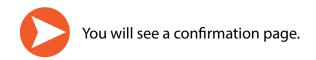




Then click submit. Enter your MiWAM password. Your application has been submitted.







Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

### **UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**







Thank you for submitting your Michigan UIA Work-Share plan application. You will be notified today via a web notice of your application status.

Your plan approval will contain the date when you will be required to begin submitting your Bi-Weekly Work-Share Certification file. You must submit this file for each two week period that the covered employees are reduced in accordance with this plan.

Your confirmation number is 0-791-519-232.

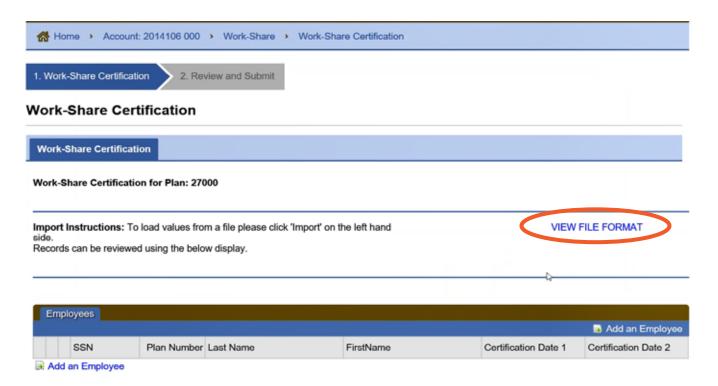
Printable View
OK



### **BULK CERTIFICATION**



You can also upload a bulk file to certify for your employees. Your bulk file will need to be created according to the specified file format. To view the specifications for bulk certification, Click on Manage work share plans; click Certification. Then click view file format



#### Work-Share Certification - File Specifications

This document outlines the file specification for Work-Share Certifications. Files using this format can only be submitted through MWAM.

#### Layout Specifications

#### Overview

The Work-Share Certification file must be submitted for each Work-Share Plan independently; one file cannot contain information for multiple plans. The file may only contain records for employees that were established during the plan application, but all employees in the plan do not need to be entered into the file for it to be accepted.

The Work-Share Certification file is used to quickly certify work-share benefits for employees in the plan. The file does not contain a header record, and each row should contain employee information for the certification.

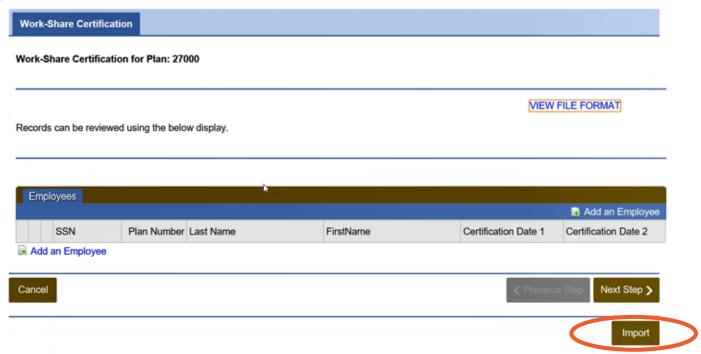
#### Employee Detail Record

Location	Field Name	Width	Description	
1-6	Plan Number	6	digit Work-Share plan number, e.g. "123450"	
6-15	Social Security Number	9	mployee's Social Security number. Must be all digits. Do not include the dashes.	
16-32	Last Name	17	Last name of the employee.	
33-44	First Name	12	First name of the employee.	
45-52	Certification Date 1	8	Certification Date 1. Format is MMDDCCYY where MM is the month, DD is the day, and CCYY is the century and year. The certification date must be a Seturday.	
53-60	Certification Date 2	8	Certification Date 2. Format is MMDDCCYY where MM is the month, DD is the day, and CCYY is the century and year. The certification date must be a Seturday.	





To input a bulk file: On the certification page, click import.





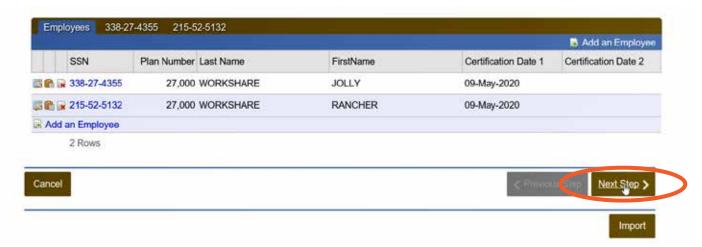
Select your file. Then click import.







You will see information for each of your employees. After the employees are added, then click next step.



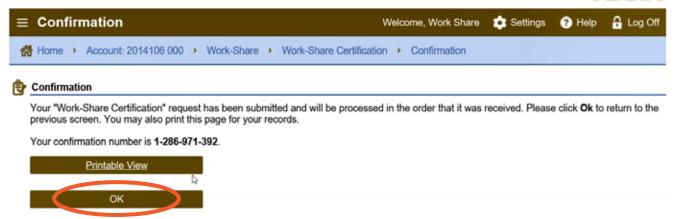


Enter your password and click SUBMIT. You will then see a confirmation. Click OK.

Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

### **UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**



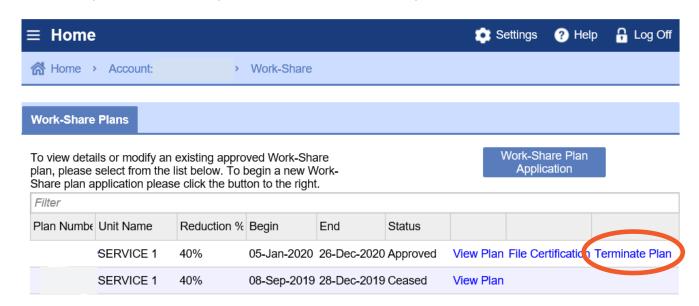




### HOW TO TERMINATE A WORK SHARE PLAN

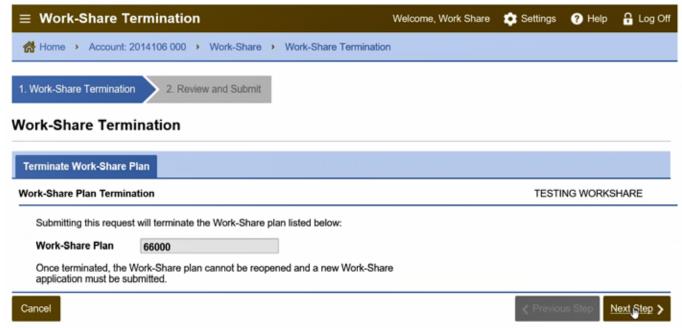


Please note that your Work Share plan may be terminated at any time. Click Terminate Plan for the Plan number and work unit you wish to terminate. Once terminated, the Work Share plan cannot be reopened and a new Work Share plan must be submitted.

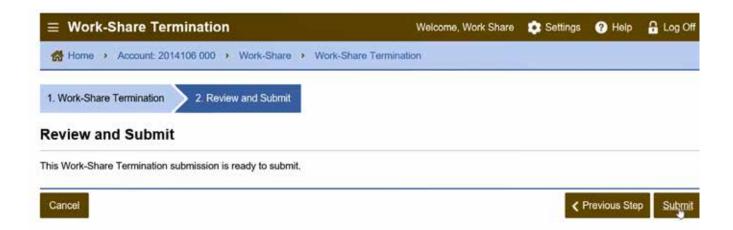




Click next step, then click submit.



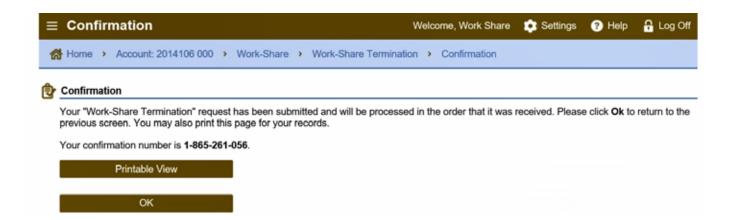






Enter your MiWAM password. You will receive a confirmation page.







### **WORK SHARE EXAMPLE**

Here's an example: A company with 100 employees finds it necessary to lay off 20 people. With Work Share, the employer keeps all 100 employees on the payroll, but reduces their work week from five days to four days. This will achieve the desired 20 percent reduction in payroll. All 100 employees will continue to earn wages for four days and also are eligible for Work Share benefits for the fifth day. While weekly benefit rates vary from person to person, if a worker was fully unemployed, their weekly benefit amount would be, for example, \$362. Under Work Share, a worker whose hours were reduced by 20 percent would receive a \$72 Work Share benefit ( $$362 \times 20\% = $72$ ).

Under the federal CARES Act, employees that receive a percent of Michigan unemployment benefits (including Work Share) also receive the weekly \$600 federal benefit through July 2020.

#### **HOW IT WORKS FOR BUSINESS**

#### FOR EXAMPLE:

A BUSINESS THAT IS FACING A 20% REDUCTION IN PRODUCTION USUALLY LAYS OFF ONE-FIFTH OF ITS WORKFORCE.

20% = 1/5

OF WORKFORCE



UNDER WORK SHARE, THE FIRM RETAINS ITS TOTAL WORKFORCE ON A FOUR-DAY-A-WEEK BASIS.

100% WORKFORCE 4 DAYS A WEEK



PRODUCTION CUT BY REQUIRED 20%

AND REDUCES
LABOR COSTS.

AVOIDS THE EXPENSE OF RECRUITING, HIRING AND TRAINING NEW EMPLOYEES.

### HOW IT WORKS FOR EMPLOYEES

#### **FOR EXAMPLE:**

IF AN EMPLOYEE EARNS

\$775

THEN LOSES HIS JOB, THEY WOULD

BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE

\$362
PER WEEK FROM
UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

WITH WORK SHARE, EMPLOYER REDUCES HOURS BY 20%

\$620 4 DAY WORK WEEK

RECEIVES BENEFITS FROM THE WORK SHARE PROGRAM FOR THE DAY OF LAYOFF

> \$72 1 DAY LAYOFF (\$362 X 20%)

EMPLOYEES KEEP THEIR JOBS

AND RECEIVE MORE INCOME

COMPARED TO FULL UNEMPLOYMENT

\$692 4 DAY WORK WEEK + WORK SHARE BENEFITS

+ ADDITIONAL \$600
FEDERAL BENEFIT THROUGH JULY



### **BENEFIT PAYMENTS**

Benefit payment x reduction % = Work Share Amount + PUC = Total Benefit

Hourly Pay	Benefit Payment	*Work Share amount	PUC Payment	Total UI Benefit Amount
\$17.00+	\$362.00	\$181.00	\$600.00	\$781.00
\$16.00	\$341.00	\$170.50	\$600.00	\$770.50
\$15.00	\$320.00	\$160.00	\$600.00	\$760.00
\$14.00	\$298.00	\$149.00	\$600.00	\$749.00
\$13.00	\$277.00	\$138.00	\$600.00	\$738.00
\$12.00	\$256.00	\$128.00	\$600.00	\$728.00
\$11.00	\$235.00	\$117.00	\$600.00	\$717.00
\$10.00	\$213.00	\$106.00	\$600.00	\$706.00
\$9.00	\$192.00	\$96.00	\$600.00	\$696.00
\$8.00	\$171.00	\$85.50	\$600.00	\$685.50

Participant receives a percentage of regular unemployment benefits plus additional \$600 Federal PUC compensation through **July 2020**.



### WORK SHARE FAQs FOR EMPLOYERS

#### Q. What is Work Share?

**A.** Michigan's Work Share program provides employers with an alternative to layoffs when the work available to employees decreases. Instead of the employer laying off some employees, all employees share the available work by working reduced hours and collecting a portion of unemployment compensation, or UC, benefits. To receive approval for a Work Share plan an employer must certify that the plan is in lieu of layoffs and would result in a reduction in hours for all employees.

### Q. Why should an employer consider using the Work Share program?

**A.** Use of the Work Share program immediately minimizes or eliminates the need for layoffs, enables a business to retain trained employees, and avoid the expense of recruiting, hiring and training new employees. Work Share also saves employers money and allows them to keep their skilled workforce. In addition, employees retain their fringe benefits are spared the hardship of full unemployment.

### Q. How exactly does the program work?

**A.** Weekly benefits amounts vary depending on past employment history. If a worker establishes weekly benefit amount, for example, of \$360, under the Work Share program, a worker whose hours were reduced by 10 percent would receive a Work Share benefit payment of \$36 (\$360 x 10%) in addition to their wages. Currently employees receiving Work Share benefits are also eligible to receive the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC) of \$600.00 per week through July 25, 2020 in addition to their Work Share benefit.

### Q. What are the requirements to receive Work Share benefits?

**A.** Participating employees must have earned a sufficient amount of wages in order to establish a regular unemployment claim in order to receive Work Share benefits. The program requires employers to maintain the fringe benefits of participating employees; and if the employees are covered by a collective bargaining agreement approval must be obtained from the bargaining representatives to participate. To receive approval for a Work Share plan an employer must certify that the plan is in lieu of layoffs and would result in a reduction in hours for all employees.

As a result of Executive Order 2020-76, Work Share program eligibility requirements have been revised. To participate in Work Share:

- All employees in the affected unit <u>must</u> participate in the plan.
- A plan must include a minimum of two employees.
- Plans may be approved for any period of up to 52 consecutive weeks.
- Employee work hours may only be reduced by a minimum of 10% up to a maximum 60%.
- Work Share does not apply to seasonal, temporary, or intermittent employment.

Employers may have multiple plans covering separate work units. A work unit is the employees an employer selects to be covered by a Work Share plan. Employers are given flexibility to organize each work unit they want to participate in Work Share.

### Q. How many employees are required for a Work Share plan?

**A.** A Work Share plan must have at least two participating employees.



#### Q. Are there any requirements for employee participation?

**A.** Yes. Employees must have earned enough wages to qualify for a regular unemployment claim in order to participate in the Work Share Program. Employees who will work 40 or more hours per week while the plan is in effect are also excluded. An employee cannot have more than one active unemployment claim and <u>must</u> stop certifying on their regular unemployment insurance claim the week they return to work on a Work Share plan.

### Q. How many hours of work can be reduced in a Work Share plan?

**A.** An employer may only reduce hours by at a minimum of 10 percent to a maximum of 60 percent (Executive Order 2020-76).

### Q. Must hours of work be reduced equally for all employees?

**A.** All employees participating in the same Work Share plan must be treated equally, with the same percentage of hours reduced. However, there may be multiple Work Share plans for an employer covering different units. For example, one Work Share plan may reduce the employees' hours by 25 percent and another plan for a different department, unit, or location, may reduce hours by 40 percent.

### Q. If an employer chooses Work Share, must he or she use it for their entire business?

A. No. A Work Share plan can apply to a department, shift or organizational unit. Employers are given flexibility to organize each work unit they want to participate in Work Share.

### Q. Can I lay off some of the workers participating in a Work Share plan and continue the plan with the remaining individuals?

**A.** No. You may not lay off any employees in a Work Share plan during the duration of the plan. However, if layoffs are unavoidable you can terminate the Work Share plan for that unit and create a new plan.

### Q. How long can my employees receive Work Share benefits?

**A.** Assuming an employee is otherwise eligible, he or she may receive Work Share benefits until the Work Share plan ends, or up to a maximum of 26, whichever comes first.

### Q. How does an employer sign up for the Work Share program?

**A.** Employers may file an application online through the <u>Michigan Web Account Manager (MiWAM)</u> at <u>michigan.gov/uia.</u>

For more information about Work Share, visit <u>Michigan.gov/workshare</u> or call the Office of Employer Ombudsman at 1-855-484-2636.

### Q. Should my application specify which employees will be participating in the Work Share program?

**A.** Yes. The plan must include the name, Social Security number, normal hours worked per week, and the proposed reduction of hours per week for the employees in the affected unit.



### Q. How will I know if my Work Share plan is approved?

A. Employers are notified through their MiWAM account if the plan is approved or denied.

### Q. How long does the Work Share program last?

**A.** A Work Share plan can last up to 52 consecutive weeks.

#### Q. What are the costs associated with the Work Share program?

A. There is no charge to enroll in the Work Share program. Work Share benefits are charged in the same manner as regular unemployment benefits, that is, to each participating employee's base period employers. However, as part of the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act 2020, benefits paid under an approved work share plan for the weeks ending 4/4/20 through 12/26/20 will be 100 percent federally funded and will not be charged to the work share employer.

### Q. Can an employer enroll his employees in the Work Share program if they are behind in paying their unemployment insurance taxes?

A. Currently, due to the Governor's Executive Order 2020-76, yes, employers who have an outstanding unemployment insurance tax balance can participate in work share.

### Q. If an employer has union employees, must the union approve Work Share? A. Yes

### Q. Not every employee within the "affected unit" is a union member; can the unit still be approved for a Work Share plan? A. Yes.

### Q. Can the union representative request a modification or termination of a **Work Share plan?**

**A.** No. The union cannot unilaterally modify or terminate a Work Share plan.

### Q. Why would a union member with seniority agree to reduced hours through Work Share when his/her job would be secure and an employee in his unit with less seniority would be laid off?

**A.** Work Share preserves the jobs and benefits of all the employees within the unit thereby:

- eliminating the need for training new employees when work has returned to full time
- maintaining the level of productivity and skills
- sustaining the union workforce

### Q. What other responsibilities does an employer have after the plan is approved?

A. The employer will be required to submit certifications on behalf of their employees on a weekly or biweekly basis.

It is the employer's responsibility to inform their employees that they have been included in a work share plan. Visit the UIA Work Share website at Michigan.gov/workshare for a flyer which may be provided to your employees about Work Share. **WorkShare** 

### Q. Can an employer with multiple businesses enroll one business in Work Share and not the other?

A. Yes.

### Q. How does an employer terminate their participation in the Work Share program?

**A.** An employer may terminate a Work Share plan by providing written notice to the Unemployment Insurance Agency. The Unemployment Insurance Agency may also terminate a plan for good cause.

### Q. Can an employee of an employer enrolled in Work Share participate if they have a part time job or another source of employment?

**A.** Yes. However, if you have other employment and work more hours in your other employment than were reduced by the Work Share employer it is possible that your weekly unemployment benefit amount would be affected. For example, if you are reduced 10 hours with the work share employer and work 12 hours with a different employer, you will not receive benefits for that week. You must report the number of hours worked each week with your other employer to your work share employer.

### Q. Must an employee actively seek other work or accept other work while participating in Work Share?

**A.** No, Work Share participants are exempt from the seeking work requirement. However, to be eligible for Work Share benefits, a participating employee must be available for his or her normal weekly hours of work with the Work Share employer.

### Q. What happens if an employee receives holiday, sick or vacation pay?

**A.** To the extent that holiday, sick, or vacation pay is received for hours the employee would have worked under the Work Share plan, the employee's eligibility for Work Share benefits would not be affected. However, if a participating employee works the number of hours determined under the plan and receives holiday, sick or vacation pay for additional hours, his or her unemployment claim eligibility will be determined without regard to the Work Share provisions of the unemployment law. This would occur, for example, if an employee works Monday through Thursday under a plan that calls for a 20 percent reduction in work hours and gets paid for a Friday holiday.

## Q. If an employee already has a regular unemployment claim on which the benefit year has not yet expired, does he or she have to apply for another claim under Work Share?

**A.** No. The employees' regular unemployment claim will be stopped and benefits will be paid under the employer's Work Share Plan.

### Q. Will the Work Share employer be required to report the wages an employee earns from their part-time employer?

**A.** No. Earnings from the employee's Work Share employer or part-time employer are not reported during a Work Share plan period.



#### Q. Where can an employer direct questions about Work Share?

**A.** For more information about Work Share, visit <u>Michigan.gov/workshare</u> or call the Office of Employer Ombudsman at 1-855-484-2636.

# Q. For those employers approved, will employees start receiving partial Unemployment Insurance benefits when their hours are reduced or when the employer's application is accepted?

**A.** Employees will be eligible for Work Share benefits after the Work Share Plan (application) is approved.

### Q. If you laid off employees, can you re-hire them and then put them on a Work Share plan? If so, how long do you have to wait?

**A.** Yes, employers can participate in Work Share after re-calling their employees. There is currently no waiting period to apply. Note: Returning employees who had already filed and are receiving unemployment insurance benefits on their regular claim must stop certifying for benefits on the regular claim, and will begin receiving benefits on the Work Share plan.



### WORK SHARE FAQs FOR EMPLOYEES

#### Q. What do I do if my employer has been approved for Work Share?

**A.** Your employer will provide you with information regarding participation in a Work Share Program. Once a plan is approved, the Unemployment Insurance Agency will send you Form UIA 1054, Notice to Employees of Approval of Work Share Plan, explaining your weekly benefit amount while participating in Work Share, your weeks of eligibility and your employer Work Share Plan begin and end date. This letter will also provide you with instructions on method of payment. You do not need to contact UIA to file (certify) for your weekly Work Share benefits, this will be completed by your employer.

### Q. Will my participation in Work Share affect future Unemployment Insurance benefits?

**A.** It is possible that your future weeks of eligibility for UI benefits will be reduced. Any future benefit reduction will be calculated based on the percentage of work reduction as indicated on your employer's Work Share Plan.

### Q. When will I receive my weekly Work Share amount?

**A.** After UIA notifies you of your eligibility for Work Share Benefits, your employer will submit all of the certifications on your behalf. Form UIA 1054 will provide you with information regarding eligibility weeks and benefit amount. You will be receiving your weekly benefit amount after the employer certifies the Work Share Plan. You will receive your benefit payment within 2-3 business days after the certification.

### Q. How will I receive my weekly Work Share amount?

**A.** Payments are deposited on a UIA issued debit card from Bank of America or direct deposit to your financial institution of choice. To set-up direct deposit you will need to create a Michigan Web Account Manager (MiWAM) and enter your direct deposit information under the Claimant Services tab, or call 1-866-500-0017 and select the payment method option. You will need to have your financial Institution's routing number and your account number available. If no option is selected, your method of payment will default to debit card. If you have previously selected a method of payment, your option will remain the same.

### Q. Can an employee enrolled in Work Share participate if they have a part time job or another source of employment?

**A.** If you have other employment and work more hours in your other employment than were reduced by the Work Share employer it is possible that your weekly UI benefit amount would be affected. For example, if you are reduced 10 hours with the work share employer and work 12 hours with a different employer, you will not receive benefits for that week. You must report the number of hours worked each week with your other employer to your work share employer.

### Q. Must an employee actively seek other work or accept other work while participating in Work Share?

**A.** No, Work Share participants are exempt from the work registration requirement. However, to be eligible for Work Share benefits, a participating employee must be available for his or her normal weekly hours of work with the Work Share employer.



### Q. What happens if I am in a Union?

**A.** If you are represented by a union, it is the responsibility of your employer to contact your union and have the agreement of the collective bargaining agent to participate with a Work Share Plan. Your employer is required to contact the union and receive consent for participation from the collective bargaining agent.

### Q. What happens to my health, retirement or other benefits while my hours are reduced on Work Share?

**A.** Employers with an approved Work Share Plan must continue to provide benefits to affected employees as though their work weeks have not been reduced.

# Q. I was receiving a standard UI claim then I was recalled back to work and told that my employer is having me participate in Work Share. Do I continue to certify my standard UI claim?

**A.** While participating in the Work Share Program, do not certify on your previous standard claim. While the Plan is in effect, your employer is responsible for certifying you for benefits. You cannot receive benefits under a standard UI claim and a Work Share claim. Certifying on a standard UI claim while receiving benefits for participating in the Work Share Program could result in a fraud finding against you, and result in your benefits being stopped, penalties assessed against you and possible criminal prosecution.

### Q. My employer was participating in the Work Share Program and subsequently completely laid off staff. What do I do?

**A.** If you are completely laid off from the Work Share Employer, you can file a standard UI claim and it will be reviewed for benefit eligibility.

### Q. Can I protest my Work Share claim or benefit amount?

**A.** A Notice to Employees of Approved Work Share Plan, cannot be protested. Your employer handles the entire Work Share process including application, participant list and the work reduction percentage resulting in the payment of Work Share benefits.

### Q. Who can I contact regarding my Work Share benefits?

**A.** If you have any questions regarding your participation in the employer's approved Work Share Plan, you must contact your employer.

### Q. What type of unemployment insurance benefits will I get if I go on vacation for a week?

**A.** If you do not work any hours for your employer and you are not available for work during the week (vacation), you are not eligible for any type of UI benefit. Your employer should not certify your UI benefits for the week in which you took vacation.



### Q. Will child support payments or taxes be deducted from my Work Share benefits?

**A.** Unlike a standard UI claim where taxes and intercepts for child support are deducted from your claim, a Work Share benefit payment will NOT include deductions of taxes or child support. You will receive a 1099 at the end of the year in which you will have to declare during tax filing.

# Q. My employer has me on a Work Share Plan in which my hours were reduced by 50%. However, this week my employer had me work my full-time hours. Am I eligible for the Unemployment Insurance Work Share benefits?

**A.** No. If your employer indicated on the plan application that you had a reduction of work by 50% of your hours and you worked above those hours for the week, your employer should not certify you for a Work Share benefit for that week. You will not be paid unemployment insurance benefits for that week.

### Q. What happens if I use a day of paid leave (sick, vacation, personal) during a Work Share week? What about unpaid time off?

**A.** If you miss any time during a week and receive paid leave, those hours count as worked time for calculating Work Share benefits.

If you take leave that is unpaid or you fail to work all available hours, you may not be eligible for unemployment benefits during that week. For instance, if you are three hours late for work and are not paid for those three hours by your employer, your employer should not certify your weekly Work Share benefit and you will not receive payment.

It is your employer's responsibility to maintain an accurate record of your work hours in order to certify your work share benefit.

