

PRESS RELEASE

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American Institute for Full Employment Honors Missouri with 2020 Full Employment Award

Missouri initiatives improve reemployment of unemployment claimants

The American Institute for Full Employment (AIFE) has given a Full Employment Award for 2020 to the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for implementing effective reemployment policy and process initiatives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Full Employment Award is given each year to one or more states or individuals demonstrating a commitment to excellence in helping to reemploy job seekers.

Nationally, the country experienced the most devastating economic crisis since the Great Depression. However, despite a year of record-high unemployment claim volume, Missouri continued providing reemployment services to those in need and sharpened its programs.

Missouri collaborated both internally and with outside stakeholders to maximize employment opportunities. The state's initiatives included:

- Maintaining without interruption the state's Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program, by seamlessly shifting the process to a safe, virtual environment by March 17, 2020
- Reinstating work search requirements for UI claimants—including for pandemic-related claims—early in the pandemic (July 5, 2020)
- Integrating its online claim system and real time job information systems
- Reassessing all reemployment practices and implementing virtual processes where practical, including virtual job fairs, on-line behavioral assessments and free online training

For the year, Missouri increased the number of UI claimants who fully completed RESEA activities by more than 3%, while serving nearly the same number of participants as 2019. After July 5, 2020, more than 329,000 claimants logged over 11.7 million completed work search activities.

"In the face of such overwhelming need, it's inspiring to see Missouri rapidly implement more scalable and effective ways to help the unemployed find work before they exhaust their benefits," says AIFE President John Courtney.

The Georgia Department of Labor joins the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations as a recipient of the 2020 Full Employment award. Georgia's accomplishments are highlighted in a separate press release.

To learn more about the award-winning initiatives of Missouri and Georgia, as well as previous award recipients, visit the American Institute for Full Employment's [website](#).

About the American Institute for Full Employment

The American Institute for Full Employment is a nonprofit consulting and research group, founded in 1994 to promote best practices in solving unemployment in America. Its mission is Full Employment in America. The Institute's team consists of former state agency executives. Its team has designed best practices in workforce, unemployment and welfare programs for decades, working on policy design and implementation in more than 25 states.