

Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012
Self Employment Assistance (SEA)
Fact Sheet

- SEA helps unemployed individuals establish their own businesses by providing them with temporary income support (in lieu of receiving regular unemployment compensation) and access to entrepreneurial training and services.
- The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 extended this authority to permit states to establish SEA programs for individuals receiving extended benefits (EB) and Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC08).
 - Individuals may receive up to 26 weeks of SEA payments based on EUC08, EB, or combined EUC08/EB eligibility.
 - The requirements for these programs are generally the same as for SEA programs for recipients of regular unemployment compensation (UC).
- The Act provides \$35 million for grants to states that either currently operate an SEA program for recipients of regular UC, or establish new SEA programs for recipients of regular UC, EB, or EUC08.
 - Grant amounts are determined based on the percentage of unemployed individuals in a state relative to the percentage of unemployed individuals in all states.
 - States must submit a grant application no later than June 30th, 2013.
 - The statute establishes two SEA grants. Initially, states may apply for grants to help develop, implement, or administer an SEA program. States approved for these grants are eligible for additional grants to help them promote the programs and enroll unemployed individuals.
- The Act requires the Secretary of Labor to help states implement SEA programs by developing model language for states to consider, providing technical assistance and guidance, and establishing reporting requirements for states with SEA programs. The statute also requires the Secretary, no later than five years from date of enactment, to submit to Congress an evaluation of state SEA programs.

Additional guidance and information is available on the Office of Unemployment Insurance website at <http://www.oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/jobcreact.asp>