



Report Highlights

Louisiana Workforce Commission

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Why We Conducted This Audit

The Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA) used Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) unemployment data to identify multiple claimants that received unemployment benefits using the same bank accounts. This information showed that the same 43 claimants used one or more of the bank accounts held by family members of A.B. LLA initiated this investigative audit to determine if A.B. and others improperly received unemployment benefits on behalf of other claimants.

What We Found

Claimants Received Unemployment Benefits for Multiple Individuals

From May 15, 2020 to October 14, 2020, LWC issued Pandemic unemployment benefits totaling \$151,907 for 49 separate claims that appear to have been fabricated. The majority of the claimants' names and Social Security numbers did not correspond to a Louisiana driver's license/identification card, and no Louisiana wages had been reported for the majority of these claimants. LWC records show that these claimants used the same and/or similar mailing addresses and that their LWC accounts were accessed from the same Internet Protocol (IP) addresses to change their names, contact information, and bank account information. We found that 43 of the claimants' LWC accounts were accessed within minutes of each other from the same IP address A.B. used to direct \$53,099 in benefits to at least two bank accounts held by A.B.'s family members. In addition, we found that 25 claimants received benefits totaling \$79,891 on debit cards that were used to withdraw cash at the same locations and times when A.B.'s debit card was used to withdraw cash. By receiving unemployment benefits on behalf of other individuals, A.B. and others may have violated state law.

View the full report, including management's responses, at www.la.gov.