WEBINAR
Social Insurance: Its History and Enduring Relevance

July 22, 2020
Logistics

- Attendees in listen only mode.

- Questions welcome. Type question using “Question” function on control panel, and we will answer.

- Audio, technical issues during webinar, call GoToWebinar at 1-800-263-6317.

- Webinar replay and slides will be posted at https://www.nirsonline.org/events.
Speakers

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Social Insurance and the Current Crisis

Bill Arnone, CEO, National Academy of Social Insurance
Why Social Insurance is critical during COVID
How SI has supported families during COVID

- Unemployment Insurance
- Medicare
- Social Security
  - Old Age
  - Disability
  - SSI
- Medicaid
- Workers’ Compensation
Unemployment Insurance (UI)

Critical individual and societal cushion during economic downturns

Extended and expanded by Congress during COVID crisis

Reaching more workers, but still not nearly enough

Unemployment and the CARES Act: What Can PUA Offer?

The following summarizes the CARES Act (H.R. 748), as passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on March 27, 2020.

- **PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA)**: Creates a temporary federal UI program for individuals not otherwise eligible for UI benefits (self-employment, independent contractors, gig economy workers).
- **TIME PERIOD**: Authorizes up to 13 additional weeks of federally financed UI benefits from the normal 26 weeks for individuals who exhaust state and federal UI benefits, through the end of December 2020.
- **ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?**
  1. are ineligible for any other state or federal UI benefits;
  2. meet conditions related to being unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable to work due to COVID-19;
  3. are not able to telework and are not receiving any paid leave.
- **BENEFIT AMOUNT INCREASED**: Increases UI benefit amount by $600 through July 2020.
Workers’ Compensation

Provides cash and medical benefits for injured, ill workers

BUT injuries vs. illnesses treated very differently

COVID poses new challenges, exposes existing ones
Medicare beneficiary population is particularly vulnerable
Expansion of telehealth and home health services
Coverage of COVID-19 testing services
Medicaid

Increased enrollment
Coverage of COVID-19 related testing
6.2 percent point increase in the federal matching rate
Weaknesses and Gaps in SI

- **What’s not working well**
  - UI benefits insufficient, duration too short
  - UI system outdated, hard to navigate, overwhelmed
  - WC OD not well-suited to diseases like COVID
  - Insufficient Medicaid funding

- **What’s missing**
  - Paid leave – some available through CARES Act, but millions left out
  - Child care – logistically difficult now, financially out of reach
  - Long-term care
  - Assured Income?
• Visit COVID-19 Impact: Social Insurance Responses for additional resources and information on the role of social insurance programs during this crisis.
Questions?