

Transparency in Data Collection: Claimant Guide

Understanding the Need for Personal Information

WorkForce West Virginia is committed to transparency and effective communication. It is important for claimants to understand how their personal information is collected, stored, and used during the Unemployment Insurance (UI) process. Personal information, such as Social Security number (SSN), address, and date of birth (DOB), is collected to verify identity, assess eligibility, track economic trends, identify areas for program improvement, and enhance service delivery across the state.

Use of Demographic Data

Additionally, demographic data, such as ethnicity, race, and gender, is collected to track trends in unemployment and employment patterns across different demographic groups. This data helps WorkForce West Virginia ensure that its programs reach all claimant groups effectively. It also contributes to improving the efficiency of its services, ensuring that all claimants receive the support they need.

Data Security

Claimant personal data is securely stored on WorkForce West Virginia's system, accessible only by authorized personnel. This system ensures the privacy and security of all claimant information. WorkForce West Virginia has a history of maintaining data security, which reflects an ongoing commitment to safeguarding claimant information.

Data Collection Breakdown

The following list outlines the specific data collected and its purpose:

Field	Why	How Data is Used
SSN	To verify identity and track claimants across systems.	The SSN is used to ensure correct identification of claimants in the system and in other state databases. It helps track wages, employment history, and prior unemployment claims.
Address	To determine jurisdiction.	The address is used to identify geographic location, which helps assess regional employment trends.
Education Level	To assess employability and potential for reemployment.	Education level helps determine suitable job opportunities and training programs, aiding in workforce development.
Citizenship Status	To verify eligibility for unemployment benefits.	Citizenship status ensures the claimant's eligibility for benefits, as only U.S. citizens and certain eligible non-citizens qualify.
DOB	To understand employment trends and eligibility for certain programs.	Age helps track employment patterns, such as challenges faced by younger workers entering the workforce and older workers nearing retirement.
Disability Status	To identify any potential employment barriers and ensure compliance with regulations.	Disability status helps ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other regulations, while identifying potential employment barriers that may require accommodations or targeted support services.
Ethnicity, Race, and Gender	To ensure accurate data reporting and track trends in unemployment	This data is used to track trends in unemployment and employment patterns across different demographic groups.