



Ohio Unemployment Program Policy Virtual Private Networks (VPNs)

Effective May 15, 2026

Purpose

To provide guidance to the public regarding the use of virtual private networks (VPNs) when interacting with the Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations (OUIO) .

Background

VPNs can mask a user's true IP address, making it easier for identity thieves and organized fraud rings to hide their location and submit fraudulent unemployment claims. Because many VPN providers operate with no activity logs, there's no way to trace specific online actions back to an individual user. Data from multiple sources shows a strong correlation between VPN/proxy traffic and fraudulent activity.

Legal Requirements

There is no federal mandate that explicitly allows or prohibits VPN use. The U.S. Department of Labor requires states to ensure individuals have access to filing unemployment claims. This requirement is considered met if multiple filing methods are available.

Policy Statement

Based on available data, fraud trends, legal analysis, and established industry practices, OUIO prohibits the use of VPNs when interacting with unemployment systems. This measure is necessary to protect program integrity, ensure accurate identity verification, and safeguard the unemployment insurance system from misuse and fraud.

Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with federal and state requirements and organizational needs. Any updates or amendments will be communicated accordingly.

Change Log

Published Date	Status (Baseline, Revision, Deletion)	Document Version	Page(s) Affected	Description of Revision	Author
4/14/2025	Baseline	Vs.1	NA	Draft	ABW

Questions?

If you have questions, please call 1-877-644-6562 or complete either the Employer Inquiry or Claimant Inquiry form on our website at [Contact Us](#).