

KDOL Update

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Acting Secretary



September 16, 2020

Since March 15, KDOL has paid out more than **2.4 million weekly claims** totaling over **\$1.9 billion** between regular unemployment, and the federal pandemic programs.

KDOL Fraud Mitigation



Fraud Mitigation

- Partnership with U.S. Department of Labor – **Office of the Inspector General**.
- Hired a fulltime **security officer (KISO)** for better OITS coordination and analysis.
- More than **doubled** the size of the **KDOL Fraud & Special Investigation Unit**.
- Put in place a **72-hour hold** on all **new PUA applications** to allow for a validity check to be completed.
- **Blocking financial institutions** with disproportionately high levels of suspicious transactions.
- KDOL Legal is conducting **review of existing laws** for permissibility of other measures.
- Deployed **specialized technologies** to target and block abusive IP addresses and malicious bot activity.
- Weekly communication with National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) on **emerging trends and best practices**.
- Partnership with NASWA and utilizing their **Integrity Data Hub**.
- Launched www.ReportFraud.ks.gov.
- Developing a **messaging campaign** for the general public and businesses about **identity theft** and unemployment insurance fraud.

Lost Wage Assistance (LWA) Program



Timeline for the Lost Wage Assistance (LWA) Program

- **August 8:** President Trump issued executive memorandum creating the LWA program, providing up to **\$400** in supplemental payments to Americans on unemployment.
- **August 10:** Application process opened by FEMA.
- **August 12:** Initial program guidance issued by FEMA.
- **August 17:** Actual program guidance issued by FEMA.
- **August 27:** Governor Kelly announced Kansas' intention to apply for the LWA program.
- **September 2:** SPARK Taskforce gives \$400 LWA approval.
- **September 3:** State Finance Council rejects \$400 LWA proposal.
- **September 4:** KDOL applies to FEMA for \$300 LWA proposal. No additional input from SPARK or SFC needed.
- **September 7:** FEMA approved Kansas' grant application.
- **September 9:** States informally told that LWA would only be guaranteed for six weeks. No official guidance yet.
- **September 10:** First half of LWA funding received.
- **September 14:** KDOL applied for last half of LWA funding.
- **End of September:** KDOL expected to begin paying out LWA funds.

Lost Wage Assistance (LWA) Program

- Allows states to provide up to \$400 in additional unemployment benefits each week to eligible claimants.
- Eligible claimants in Kansas will receive **\$300 per week**.
- In addition to the normal requirements for unemployment programs, each claimant must:
 - ✓ Self-certify that their unemployment or under employment is caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - ✓ Be receiving at least \$100 in unemployment benefits from another program.

Lost Wage Assistance (LWA) Program

- The earliest benefits could be payable is late September.
- Payments will be paid back to August 1, 2020 – the first week of program eligibility.
- FEMA has notified KDOL that funds will be available through the week ending September 5, 2020 — *six weeks total*.
- KDOL IT has started implementation of the program.
 - Implementation costs can not be paid using existing federal administrative funds. States will receive up to 5% of the grant to fund administrative costs. States must provide a 25% match of that funding. KDOL paying for state match from Penalties and Interest Fund.

Questions?

