



PAID NOT TO WORK:

Federal Benefits and Bonuses Are Keeping Kansas Workers Home

THE PROBLEM: NEW FEDERAL PROVISIONS HAVE GREATLY EXPANDED UNEMPLOYMENT AND OTHER BENEFITS



2020 saw a massive expansion in federal welfare and other benefit programs, including a **\$600 weekly unemployment insurance (UI) bonus**.



Congress has doubled down on this benefits expansion **with a \$300 weekly UI bonus** combined with tax credits and other benefits.

THE REALITY: INCREASED FEDERAL BENEFITS PAY TO STAY HOME

Low-income Kansans can receive **\$3,730 per month** (\$44,756 per year) in cash or cash-equivalent benefits by remaining unemployed.



How much does it pay to be unemployed?

Nearly \$22 per hour

These Kansans could receive *another* **\$1,243 per month** (\$14,916 per year) in non-cash benefits, such as Medicaid, for a total of **\$4,974 per month** (\$59,676 per year).

More than 60 percent of these cash benefits are **due to the UI payments and the UI bonus.**

Cash/Cash Equivalent Programs	
UI Bonus	\$1,300
Average State UI	\$1,044
Child Tax Credits	\$600
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	\$433
Food Stamps	\$353
MONTHLY TOTAL	\$3,730

Based on a low-income Kansan with two children under age six.

A Kansas worker earning minimum wage **would have to work 24 hours a day for nearly seven days a week** to equal the total value of all benefits.





PAID NOT TO WORK:

Federal Benefits and Bonuses Are Keeping Kansas Workers Home

THE IMPACT: THE BENEFITS FROM STAYING HOME ARE MORE LUCRATIVE THAN WORKING



Unemployed Kansans can **receive more in cash and cash-equivalent benefits by staying home** instead of returning to work.



New Biden-issued guidance **allows even more Kansans to remain on unemployment and refuse work offers.**



Kansas businesses are desperate for workers, with an **estimated 82,000 open jobs** currently unfilled.

	Earnings from Work	Monthly Cash Benefits to Stay Home	Percent Difference
Monthly Earnings of a Full-Time Kansas Worker Earning Minimum Wage	\$1,257	\$3,730	197 percent
Median Monthly Earnings of a Full-Time Kansas Worker	\$3,222	\$3,730	16 percent

THE BOTTOM LINE

Federal lawmakers should reject additional benefit expansions.

Federal policymakers should **push back on Biden's welfare-for-all agenda.**

If the UI bonuses don't expire on time, **those on unemployment could receive extra UI benefits for roughly 80 weeks**—pushing the debate to 2022.

To unleash the economic recovery, **new and enhanced benefit programs—like the federal UI bonus—should be allowed to expire** on time.

Calculations based on original FGA analysis using data from various government and nonprofit sources.