



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
<b>MONTHLY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,730</b>

*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.





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**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.*