



PAID NOT TO WORK: Federal Money Is Keeping Utah Workers at Home

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



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



There are still **twice as many Utahns on UI rolls** compared to before the pandemic.

THE REALITY: INCREASED FEDERAL BENEFITS PAY TO STAY HOME

Low-income Utahns can receive **\$3,693 per month** (\$44,316 per year) in cash or cash-equivalent benefits by remaining unemployed.



How much does it pay to be unemployed?

\$21 per hour for full time work.

These Utahns could receive another **\$1,341 per month** (\$16,092 per year) in non-cash benefits, such as newly boosted premium subsidies, for a total of **\$5,034 per month** (\$60,408 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	\$930
Child Tax Credits	\$600
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	\$476
Food Stamps	\$387
MONTHLY TOTAL	\$3,693

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

A Utah 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 Utahns can receive more in cash and cash-equivalent benefits by staying home instead of returning to work.



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



Utah businesses are desperate for workers, with more than 72,000 jobs currently unfilled.

	Earnings from Work	Monthly Cash Benefits to Stay Home	Percent Difference
Median Monthly Earnings of a Full-Time Utah Worker	\$3,290	\$3,693	12.3 percent
Monthly Earnings of a Full-Time Utah Worker Earning Minimum Wage	\$1,256	\$3,693	194 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 and child tax credit—should be allowed to expire on time.