



PAID NOT TO WORK:

Federal Benefits and Bonuses Are Keeping Nebraska Workers 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 **nearly 25,000 fewer Nebraskans in the labor force** compared to before the pandemic.

THE REALITY: INCREASED FEDERAL BENEFITS PAY TO STAY HOME

Low-income Nebraskans can receive **\$3,637 per month** (\$43,640 per year) in cash or cash-equivalent benefits by remaining unemployed.



How much does it pay to be unemployed?

Nearly \$21 per hour

These Nebraskans could receive **another \$1,030 per month** (\$12,361 per year) in non-cash benefits, such as Medicaid, for a total of **\$4,667 per month** (\$56,004 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	\$911
Child Tax Credits	\$600
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	\$433
Food Stamps	\$393
MONTHLY TOTAL	\$3,637

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

A Nebraska worker earning minimum wage **would have to work 24 hours a day for five 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 Nebraskans can **receive more in cash and cash-equivalent benefits by staying home** instead of returning to work.



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



Nebraska businesses are desperate for workers, with an **estimated 63,000 open jobs** currently unfilled.

	Earnings from Work	Monthly Cash Benefits to Stay Home	Percent Difference
Monthly Earnings of a Full-Time Nebraska Worker Earning Minimum Wage	\$1,560	\$3,637	133 percent
Median Monthly Earnings of a Full-Time Nebraska Worker	\$3,321	\$3,637	10 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.**

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