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Amber Shultz, Acting Secretary

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Labor Updates February 17, 2021

News

- KDOL sent out a FAQ on Monday, 02/15/21 to media, and posted it on Facebook explaining the agency's position on many subjects affecting claimants. Click here for more information
- On Friday, 02/12/21, KDOL announced the agency would begin paying PEUC the week ending 02/19/21. For more information, click here

Legislative

- KDOL testified as Neutral on HB2196 in House Commerce, Labor & Economic Development on 02/10/21. The Chairman will begin working HB2196 on 02/18/21 with any amendments. He is going to give KDOL until 02/23/21 before taking action to ensure the bill is how we want it to be and will work to compromise. Rep. Johnson will be key on the piece for replenishing the trust fund
- KDOL is testifying 02/18/21 in Senate Commerce on SB177 as neutral. It is the same bill as HB2196. We will have additional staff available to help with questions. Senate Commerce really tried to lay the blame on Gov Kelly for Labor's issues. They neglected to mention that it was Brownback's administration under Karen Brownlee that abruptly ending modernization in 2011 and fired 85 labor employees, decimating the agency. See a story about this here
- House Appropriations approved KDOL's budget on 02/17/21
- Senate Ways and Means starts reviewing our budget tomorrow, 02/18/21

Fraud Software Security Weekly Updates (Numbers are as of 9:00am, 02/17/21)

- Total claimants attempting authentication: Approximately 129,500
- Those claimants who were proofed/approved: Approximately 70,000
- Those who have failed their ID proofing and would need to do it again/get help: Approximately 26,000
- Those who experienced an error of some sort: Approximately 3,900
- In terms of BOTS and fraudulent login attempts we have stopped as 4:30 pm today: Approximately 4.69M
- The number of deprovisioned users: Approximately 8,100
  - Deprovisioned users are deactivated accounts that are confirmed fraudulent

PUA Backlog

- In terms of legitimate PUA claims, as of 02/11/21, 16,100 claims are in the determination process, as it stands at this moment. 12,789 claims are in verification/upload process for more than 21 days (which is when the claim is considered backlogged)

Weekly Claim Totals

- As of the week ending 02/13/21, initial and continued claims for PUA are 40,330
- As of the week ending 02/13/21, initial and continued claims for PEUC are 494
- As of the week ending 02/13/21, initial and continued claims for Regular UI are 29,849 claims
- As of the week ending 02/13/21, regular unemployment insurance payments totaled $6,729,527
- As of the week ending 02/13/21, federal program payments totaled $6,647,612.00

Weekly Trust Fund Numbers

- The trust fund balance for the week of 02/13/21 is at $268.8M, the week before (02/06/21), the balance was $265.0M. For the week 02/15/20 the balance was $999.3M, a -73.1% drop year-over-year

Weekly Initial Claims

- The regular UI weekly initial claims for the week of 02/13/21 were 6,630. The week prior (week of 02/06/21) were 4,905**.** This is an increase from last week of 35.2%
- The weekly initial claim number for the week of 02/15/20 was 1,710**.** This is an increase of 287.7% year-over-year

Weekly Call Center Volume

- From 02/09/21 – 02/15/21, the total number of unique calls per day into the KDOL contact center was approximately 352,860

Resources

- Report Fraud Website - https://www.dol.ks.gov/fraud
- Get Kansas Benefits - https://www.getkansasbenefits.gov/Home.aspx
- Unemployment Insurance Benefits Self Service Portal - https://uiassistance.getkansasbenefits.gov/

Since March 15, 2020 KDOL has paid out over 4 million weekly claims totaling over $2.7 billion between regular unemployment and the federal pandemic programs. For more information, or to apply for unemployment benefits, go to www.GetKansasBenefits.gov.

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