

**Kansas Department of Commerce
Testimony on My-Reemployment Program
Mike Beene, Employment Services Director
Prepared for Unemployment Compensation, Modernization and
Improvement Council
June 25, 2021 8:00 A.M.**

Thank you for allowing me to testify on the My-Reemployment plan and its return to the KansasWorks system.

To be admitted into the My-Reemployment plan, a claimant must receive three consecutive weeks of Unemployment Insurance payments. This includes the federally created programs such as PEUC, PUA and others related to the pandemic. TAA, Shared Work and Returning to work within 4 weeks are all excluded from the program.

A claimant will receive an email from an @ks.gov address with instructions and a Job Search Plan form. If the claimant does not have an email address on file, they will be notified via USPS mail of their requirements. We anticipate this could make up as much as 10% of claimants, based on current projections.

Once the email is sent, a claimant has seven days to:

- 1) Upload or Build a resume in **KANSASWORKS.com**.
- 2) Resume **MUST** be in **ACTIVE** status on the website
- 3) Complete the Job Search form
- 4) Email completed form to Commerce

Failure to submit this information in 7 days would trigger a suspension of benefits by KDOL. Claimants must submit this info to have the hold lifted. We have currently worked out with the Department of Labor a way to have our systems communicate allowing for reports to update weekly with which claimants do not have their necessary items submitted. This should help streamline the process for KDOL.

Kansas Department of Commerce approaches My-Reemployment program as a way to get people back on their feet and helping to get them a good living, while also helping address the Workforce shortage that has hampered our State well before COVID. We currently have 51,133 jobs available, an increase compared to what was posted, pre-COVID. We also have companies who have been asking for help in finding the necessary workforce to keep their operations going.

This program will be a boost in helping get Kansans who have fallen on tough times, the resources needed.

The initial set of emails will begin on June 22nd. The anticipation from KDOL is anywhere from 15,000-30,000 claimants will be part of this initial list. Despite this being a rather large number compared to our typical weekly load, we are confident we can handle the initial surge of participants and provide the same level of customer service. We also are forthright in saying that this is a work in progress. We continue to have dialogues with KDOL on what kind of participation requirements should be necessary as part of the program and how we can enhance the experience for unemployed Kansans. We look at this as an exciting opportunity to help all parties get life changing experiences that will benefit all and the State as a whole.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in front of the Council today and would be happy to stand for any questions.