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Update on Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation

Topeka – As part of the unemployment extension provisions contained in H.R. 133, the Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers (“Continued Assistance”) Act of 2020, the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) applied on Dec. 31, 2020 to administer the Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC) program.

Eligible claimants will receive an additional \$100 weekly benefit on top of their weekly benefit amount and the \$300 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefit. Governor Laura Kelly directed KDOL to enroll in the optional program in order to maximize federally available unemployment benefits to eligible Kansans who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The MEUC program is not available for every claimant. Instead, it is only available for claimants receiving at least \$1 of regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) or Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) who also have earned more than \$5,000 in self-employment income in the most recent taxable year prior to the individual’s application for regular Unemployment Insurance benefits. Claimants must also submit documentation substantiating their self-employment income. KDOL is currently working to implement this program. As more information becomes available, KDOL will update its website and social media sites, and notify claimants that may be affected.

Currently, KDOL is awaiting additional guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor on how to implement the provisions of the Continued Assistance Act. The agency will not be able to issue payments under the new law until this guidance has been issued. Existing programs and payments will not be impacted and claimants should continue to file weekly claims. While the agency waits for that guidance, it is diligently working to build additional capacity within its legacy computer systems to process the revised federal benefits and bring much-needed relief to eligible claimants.

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Since March 15, KDOL has paid more than 3.4 million weekly claims totaling over \$2.4 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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