WE’RE NOT IN 1970 ANYMORE

A historical timeline of Kansas Department of Labor systems.

1970s

- KANSAS JOINS THE COMPUTER AGE
  - The Kansas Department of Labor installed a state-of-the-art mainframe in 1977. Like other states, Kansas chose a mainframe to automate its outdated systems.

1980s

- WE'RE NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE
  - The mainframe is struggling to accommodate new demands. KDOL’s information technology infrastructure kept running with an outdated system that wasn't designed to handle them.

1990s

- MOVING FORWARD
  - The road has been difficult, and the mainframe that got us here is beyond outdated. But even with that major limitation, the system was beginning to show its age and required increasing maintenance and support.

2000s

- THE DECADE OF BIG MONEY
  - The decade of big money kicked off with the dot-com bubble burst and followed by a second, deeper recession driven by the housing market collapse. The Internet generated the modern digital economy.

2010s

- MORE USERS, MINOR UPDATES
  - New decade, new economic environment. The United States saw unemployment rise as high as 9.3% and fall back to 7.3% in Kansas. Meanwhile, personal cell phones and text messaging—sustained and expanded the digital culture.

2020s

- MOVING FORWARD TO SERVE KANSAS
  - The road has been difficult, and the mainframe that got us here is beyond outdated. But even with that major limitation, we have been able to support millions of Kansans and pay out the largest dollar amount of unemployment benefits in Kansas history. We have worked hard to connect claimants with the temporary state and federal programs that are intended to help them get through this pandemic.

Every day, we do everything we can to help by:
- adding staff to the Unemployment Contact Center and expanding its hours.
- communicating better with the public, such as launching an improved KDOL website to make it easier for citizens to find the information they need.
- stopping fraud and scammers with identity verification, multi-factor authentication and more cybersecurity measures.
- implementing numerous new relief programs, even with an outdated system that search designers handle them.
- continuing to modernize the unemployment insurance mainframe at long last with legislation to fund $37.5 million in improvements over 3-5 years.

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