Labor Updates February 22, 2021

News

• KDOL begins paying PEUC. Click here for more information

Legislative

• The Legislative Post Audit report on fraud was presented to the Legislative Post Audit Committee on 02/24/21. KDOL’s rebuttal went well and a short, informational piece was sent to the Minority Leaders in both the house and senate.
• KDOL was asked to comment on the changes thus far to HB2196 on 2/23/21. The Chairman plans to finish working HB2196 on 02/25/21 with additional amendments yet to be offered. KDOL & Rep. Johnson are still in discussion on the piece for replenishing the trust fund.
• KDOL is working on compromise language with the proponents of HB 177 at the request of Chairman Olson. KDOL had two good meetings that included Phil Hayes, Natalie Bright, Jeff Oswald and Eric Stafford along with Sec. Burns Wallace for modernization discussion. The deputy secretary sent some language to the group for approval.
• On 2/23/21, Senate Ways and Means recommended reviewing the KDOL budget (in particular with regards to modernization numbers) again at omnibus.
• KDOL was asked to update House Democrats on 2/25/21 at their upcoming agenda meeting.

Fraud Software Security Weekly Updates (Numbers are as of 11:30am, 02/22/21)

• Total claimants attempting authentication: Approximately 139,500
• Claimants waiting for user action: Approximately 34,000
• Those claimants who were proofed/approved: Approximately 72,105
• Those who have failed their ID proofing and would need to do it again/get help: Approximately 29,500
• Those who experienced an error of some sort: Approximately 4000
• In terms of BOTS and fraudulent login attempts we have stopped as 11:30am today: Approximately 4,83M
• The number of deprovisioned users: Approximately 11,120
  o Deprovisioned users are deactivated accounts that are confirmed fraudulent

PUA Backlog

• In terms of legitimate PUA claims, as of 02/22/21, 17,887 claims are in the determination process, as it stands at this moment. 12,706 of those 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 02/20/21, initial and continued claims for PUA are 29,522
As of the week ending 02/20/21, initial and continued claims for PEUC are 1,411
As of the week ending 02/20/21, initial and continued claims for Regular UI are 31,734
As of the week ending 02/20/21, regular unemployment insurance payments totaled $1,812,958
As of the week ending 02/20/21, federal program payments totaled $12,791,437

Weekly Trust Fund Numbers

The trust fund balance for the week of 02/20/21 is at $272.9M, the week before (02/13/21), the balance was $268.8M. For the week 02/15/20 the balance was $995.8M, a -72.6% drop year-over-year

Weekly Initial Claims

The regular UI weekly initial claims for the week of 02/20/21 were 3,774. The week prior (week of 02/13/21) were 6,630. This is an increase from last week of -43.1%
The weekly initial claim number for the week of 02/13/20 was 1,710. This is an increase of 120.7% year-over-year

Weekly Call Center Volume

From 02/16/21 – 02/21/21, the total number of unique calls per day into the KDOL contact center was approximately 267,241

Resources

Report Fraud Website - https://www.dol.ks.gov/fraud

Since March 15, 2020 KDOL has paid out over 4.1 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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