

Unemployment Provisions



The CARES Act

The CARES Act, signed into law on March 27 provided temporary support for Americans workers impacted by COVID-19. It dedicates \$250 billion to give workers more access to unemployment benefits during this public health emergency.

- ▷Creates a temporary Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program.
- ▷Expands coverage to include self-employed, contractors, and furloughed workers.
- ▷Increases by \$600/week Americans' unemployment benefits for the next 4 months.
- ▷Makes available 13 additional weeks of unemployment for those who need it.
- ▷Waives the normal one-week waiting period.
- ▷Includes funding to offset 50% of costs of state and local government and non-profits for cost of paying unemployment to their workers.

Are self-employed and independent contractors eligible?

Yes. Self-employed and independent contractors, like gig workers and Uber drivers, are eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. This also covers workers laid off from churches and religious institutions who may not be eligible under the state's program.

What about furloughed workers?

Yes. States have policies in place to allow furloughed workers to receive unemployment benefits and part-time workers can receive partial benefits. The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program also helps workers stay connected to their employer by allowing unemployment benefits for workers who have a job but are unable to work or telework due to COVID-19-related reasons and are not receiving paid leave through their employer.

How much do unemployed workers get?

Kansas Unemployment Benefits are computed as 4.25% of your wages in the highest paid quarter. The minimum weekly amount provided by the State of Kansas is \$122 and the maximum weekly amount provided is \$488. The CARES Act provides an additional \$600 per week on top of whatever a person would normally receive in their state – limited to the next 4 months (expires July 31, 2020). This will end up providing a higher than average wage replacement rate for low-wage workers. Kansas are eligible for 26 weeks of benefits.

Apply for Unemployment Benefits at: [GetKansasBenefits.Gov](https://www.getkansasbenefits.gov)
