



PUBLIC NOTICE

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Extended Benefit Program to End November 7, 2020

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Nov. 2, 2020— The Extended Benefit Program, which provides additional unemployment insurance benefits to claimants who exhaust both regular state unemployment benefits (16 weeks) and federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (13 weeks), will end on Nov. 7, 2020 due to the improvement in the insured unemployment rate.

The insured unemployment rate represents the unemployed workforce covered by Arkansas' unemployment insurance program. The Extended Benefit Program went into effect in Arkansas the week ending June 6, 2020 as a result of Arkansas' insured unemployment rate reaching 5 percent. Arkansas' insured unemployment rate dropped back below 5 percent the week ending Oct. 17, 2020, indicating that the Extended Benefit Period would be set to end three weeks later, on Nov. 7, 2020.

Extended Benefits cannot be paid to any claimant for weeks of unemployment after Nov. 7, 2020, regardless of any remaining balance of Extended Benefit entitlement. The Division of Workforce Services mailed letters on Oct. 28, 2020 to notify individuals with active Extended Benefit claims of the impending close of the Extended Benefit Period. Those individuals who may be impacted by the close of the Extended Benefit Period should wait to receive the notice in the mail before contacting a DWS office.

Individuals impacted by the close of the Extended Benefit Program who are still unemployed or partially unemployed due to COVID-19 may apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) at www.pua.arkansas.gov or by calling 844-908-2178. For information on additional resources, please visit www.dws.arkansas.gov.

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About the Arkansas Department of Commerce:

The Arkansas Department of Commerce is the umbrella department for workforce and economic development drivers. Its divisions and regulatory boards include Division of Aeronautics, Waterways Commission, Wine Producers Council, Division of Workforce Services, Office of Skills Development, State Bank Department, Insurance Department, Securities Department, Economic Development Commission and Development Finance Authority. It was established July 2019 as part of Governor Asa Hutchinson's wide-sweeping efficiency and transformation efforts to reduce 42 cabinet agencies to 15 while maintaining services for all Arkansans.



About the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services:

The Arkansas Division of Workforce Services is a division of the Arkansas Department of Commerce. ADWS administers Arkansas' Unemployment Insurance program and facilitates employer compliance with the Arkansas Employment Security Law, collects unemployment insurance contributions from employers, provides unemployment insurance benefits to those eligible, and maintains management information systems for filing unemployment insurance claims and fraud detection.