



EDUCATION and WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CABINET
Office of the Secretary

Andy Beshear
Governor

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Jacqueline Coleman
Lt. Governor/Secretary

ORDER 2020-03

April 24, 2020

The Governor declared a State of Emergency on March 6, 2020 in Executive Order 2020-215. On March 25, 2020, the Secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet signed Administrative Order 2020-02 which suspended specific provisions of KRS Chapter 341, and KAR Title 787. AO 2020-02 further ordered the Cabinet to flexibly interpret, modify, or waive any other state laws, regulations, and policies necessary to ensure the fair and timely distribution of unemployment benefits to those affected by COVID-19. Pursuant to that authority and the authority in KRS Chapter 39A, including but not limited to KRS 39A.100(1)(j), and (k), KRS 39A.180(1) and (2), KRS 341.380(2), the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, & Economic Security Act (CARES)(Pub. L. 116-163), and Executive Order 2020-257, and Executive Order 2020-235, the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet hereby orders the following directives until the end of the State of Emergency, to aid in the efficient expansion and fair distribution of unemployment insurance benefits:

1. The Office of Unemployment Insurance is authorized, to the maximum extent permitted under Kentucky and federal law, and throughout the duration of the State of Emergency, to:
 - a. Set the minimum weekly benefit amount found at KRS 341.380(2) to \$176, in order to match the minimum weekly benefit amount for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits.
 - b. The minimum weekly benefit amount for PUA benefits is set by CARES 2102(f)(2).
 - c. This minimum weekly benefit amount ensures all minimum weekly benefits are issued at the same amount, no matter which unemployment insurance program pays the claimant, which allows for efficient and equitable distribution of unemployment benefits to all claimants.
2. If the Cabinet identifies other state laws, regulations, and policies that may inhibit the fair and timely distribution of unemployment benefits to those affected by COVID-19, the Cabinet may flexibly interpret, modify, or waive those state laws, regulations, and policies, as appropriate, to effectuate the purposes of this Order.
3. This Order is not intended to create and does not create any individual right, privilege, or benefit, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the Commonwealth of Kentucky, its agents, departments, political divisions, or other entities, or any officers, employees, or agents thereof, or any other persons.

This Order is effective as of April 24, 2020, and shall be in effect for the duration of the State of Emergency herein referenced, or until this Order is rescinded by further order or by operation of law. The Education and Workforce Development Cabinet may extend or modify this Order at any time.

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FOR EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CABINET