



D 2021 104

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Colorado Jumpstart

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution and the relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order directing the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) to make direct payments to eligible individuals who return to full time employment between May 16, 2021 and June 26, 2021, which will assist with the economic recovery from the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in Colorado. These payments are economic support to those suffering from employment or business interruptions due to COVID-19-related business closures.

I. Background and Purpose

On March 5, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) public health laboratory confirmed the first presumptive positive COVID-19 test result in Colorado. Since then, the number of confirmed cases has continued to climb, and we have evidence of widespread community spread throughout the State. I verbally declared a disaster emergency on March 10, 2020, and on March 11, 2020, I issued the corresponding Executive Order D 2020 003, as amended and extended by Executive Orders D 2020 018, D 2020 032, D 2020 058, D 2020 076, D 2020 109, D 2020 125, D 2020 152, D 2020 176, D 2020 205, D 2020 234, D 2020 258, D 2020 264, D 2020 268, D 2020 284, D 2020 290, D 2020 296, D 2021 009, D 2021 022, D 2021 028, D 2021 045, D 2021 061, D 2021 068, D 2021 087, and D 2021 102. On March 25, 2020, I requested that the President of the United States declare a Major Disaster for the State of Colorado, pursuant to the Stafford Act. The President approved that request on March 28, 2020.

My administration, along with other State, local, and federal authorities, has taken a wide array of actions to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, including combating the economic impact of COVID-19 and investing in economic recovery. The economic impacts of COVID-19 have been significant and have threatened the economic stability of many Coloradans and local businesses. The risk of contamination posed by COVID-19 necessitated closure of multiple businesses. Employers and employees in virtually all sectors of the economy were hard hit.

In March 2021, Colorado's unemployment rate remained unchanged from February at 6.4% and the labor market recovery has been slow. Job openings continue to outpace hiring throughout the State. I understand that starting a new job takes resources, like transportation,

child care, and clothing, so the payments in this Executive Order will provide Coloradans with these resources to return to the workforce more quickly and assist with the statewide economic recovery from COVID-19. This Executive Order directs CDLE to make direct payments to eligible individuals who return to full time employment between May 16, 2021 and June 26, 2021, which will assist with the economic recovery from COVID-19. These payments are economic support to those suffering from employment or business interruptions due to COVID-19-related business closures.

II. Directives

- A. I direct the Unemployment Insurance Division within CDLE to make direct payments to eligible individuals who return to full time employment between May 16, 2021 and June 26, 2021. The payments will be made as follows:
1. Individuals whose first week of full employment is between May 16, 2021 and May 29, 2021 will be eligible for total compensation up to one thousand six hundred dollars (\$1600).
 2. Individuals whose first full week of employment is May 30, 2021 through June 26, 2021 will be eligible for total compensation up to one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1200).
 3. The payments will be split in half, with fifty (50) percent being distributed after four (4) weeks of employment, and the remaining fifty (50) percent after eight (8) weeks of employment. The total paid to any eligible individual shall not exceed the amounts set above. If an individual returns to unemployment at any time during the eight (8) week period, they will have forfeited the remainder of their payment.
- B. For purposes of this Executive Order, the term “eligible individual” means any individual who received at least one week of unemployment insurance compensation during the period of time between March 28, 2021 and May 16, 2021 and:
1. Was monetarily eligible, by meeting the eligibility requirements in C.R.S. § 8-73-107(1)(e), for a weekly benefit amount of at least twenty five dollars (\$25);
 2. Has verified their identity in accordance with Unemployment Insurance Program Letter No. 16-21;
 3. Certifies that they have returned to work full time within the eligible dates of this program;
 4. Resides within the state of Colorado;

5. Returns to work within the state of Colorado; and
 6. Is not receiving unemployment benefits pursuant to C.R.S. § 8-75-201 *et seq.*
- C. For purposes of this Executive Order, the term “unemployment insurance compensation” means:
1. Unemployment Insurance Compensation administered pursuant to Articles 70 to 82 of the Colorado Employment Security Act, C.R.S. § 8-70-101, *et seq.*;
 2. Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE), under 5 U.S.C. § 8501, *et seq.*, and Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service members (UCX), under 5 U.S.C. § 8521, *et seq.*; or
 3. Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), under section 2107 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, H.R. 748, 116th Cong. (2019-2020) (CARES Act).
- D. The allocated funds for this program and any costs associated with the administration of those payments shall not be billed against the CDLE Unemployment Insurance fund or any administrative grant provided through the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) for program administration but shall instead be solely charged to the funds encumbered by this Executive Order and extensions thereof.
- E. Prior to the commencement of any activity by CDLE related to the distribution of the funds transferred, documented approval from the USDOL is required in accordance with the requirements of 2 C.F.R. 200.407, Subpart E. Any administrative costs borne by CDLE to implement this Executive Order shall be proportionately allocated pursuant to 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart E and as provided through any relevant USDOL Guidance including but not limited to Training and Employment Guidance Letters No. 6-05, 15-09, 6-02 regarding how to properly apply cost allocation principles.
- F. Standard eligibility rules for the receipt of unemployment insurance are not applicable to this incentive program and any decision to provide or deny payments under the program is not subject to appeal rights.
- G. I order that five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from the Coronavirus Relief Fund sub-account of the Disaster Emergency Fund be reallocated from the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to the Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) and that it be encumbered and made available to CDLE to cover the expenses associated with the first month of implementation of Colorado Jumpstart.

II. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty (30) days from May 19, 2021, unless amended further by Executive Order, except that the funds described in Section II.G shall remain available for the described purposes until September 4, 2021.



GIVEN under my hand and
the Executive Seal of the
State of Colorado, this
nineteenth day of May, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor