



Office of Recovery

Office of Recovery Update: 11/16/2020 - 11/20/2020

Governor Kelly and State Finance Council make \$38.5 million available for hard-hit businesses, vaccine distribution

Today, the State Finance Council unanimously approved the Kansas Office of Recovery recommendations to allocate \$20 million to hard-hit businesses and \$18.5 million for public health response efforts including vaccine administration and distribution. The allocations approved today were from funding recouped from other previously approved programs by the SPARK Taskforce that were unable to utilize all their funding by the December 30 deadline.

The \$20 million of Business Resiliency and Workforce Support recommendations will include support for the following:

- restaurants and bars
- large venues
- movie theaters
- PPE manufacturing
- private colleges

The \$18.5 million of Public Health Response recommendations includes funding for the following:

- support for local health departments
- vaccine administration and distribution
- PPE for nursing homes
- support for safety net clinics

The Office of Recovery will present to State Finance Council again next month to provide recommendations for how to invest in any remaining funds.

You can watch the meeting by clicking on the video below.



Kansas Department of Labor uses SPARK funding to track and decrease fraudulent unemployment claims

Thanks to funding approved by the SPARK Taskforce and State Finance Council, the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) has been able to make improvements to get more Kansans their unemployment benefits faster and ward off would-be scammers. The improvements include:

- About 16,500 backlog claims have been addressed and overall the backlog has been reduced by about 65%.
- Approximately 125,000 fraudulent claims have been stopped.

To address the high call volume of unemployment claims, KDOL hired 150 people to answer phones for regular claims and 50 full time operators specifically to handle Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). They also hired an additional 50 people to handle the backlogged claims

KDOL discovered that about 35% of calls coming into the PUA department dealt with fraud ---- not from victims, but from would-be scammers. On October 6, KDOL launched a Fraud/Identity Theft Awareness Campaign to cut down on fraudulent claims.

Fraud and identity theft issues have impacted all 50 states, especially right now. KDOL continues to work closely with the National Association of State Workforce Agencies and the US Department of Labor's Office of the Inspector General to identify new trends in fraud, and to stay informed on what best practices to should be deployed.

KDOL also launched a **Fraud PSA in November**. You can view the video below.

If you have any type of fraud to report, please visit www.ReportFraud@ks.gov for more information.



Report **IDENTITY THEFT**

Learn how at www.ReportFraud.ks.gov



SPARK Investments in the News:

Governor Kelly announces statewide small business grant winners.

Money is on the way to nearly 2,000 small businesses that have been impacted by the pandemic. Governor Laura Kelly made the announcement in a virtual meeting Monday. \$37.5 million is going to small businesses to help pay working capital expenses, like rent and payroll.

[Read more](#)

Crawford County small businesses granted more COVID-19 relief money.

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly announced on Tuesday that nearly 2,000 Kansas small businesses will be granted a total of \$37.5 million to help them recover from the economic impact of COVID-19. In Crawford County, 11 businesses were awarded the grants ranging in amounts from \$6,000 to \$25,000 for a total of \$193,054 between all of them.

[Read more](#)

Resources available to you:

- **SPARK Taskforce Process FAQ.** Please click [here](#) to learn more about how the Governor's taskforce developed the investment priorities.
- **Grant Programs:** Please visit <https://covid.ks.gov/grant-applications/> to see what programs are currently accepting applications.
- **County Resources:** You can view all updated county resources and guidance, including the updated **Kansas Supply Chain Disruption and Delays Memo**, by visiting <https://covid.ks.gov/spark-county-resources/>

Thank you for your interest in our State's recovery efforts.

Julie L. Lorenz

Executive Director

Office of Recovery, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly

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