



On May 13, 2021, Governor Doug Ducey and DES announced the Arizona Back To Work (BTW) Program to help individuals transition from unemployment benefits to the workforce while ensuring they have support to help them in this critical step forward. More information and updates are available at des.az.gov/back-to-work-program.

KEY POINTS

- Beginning July 10, 2021, Arizona will stop taking the federal government's supplemental pandemic unemployment benefit
- Claimants receiving unemployment benefits from any program will be eligible for their weekly benefit amount, without the additional \$300
- BTW programs will be available to individuals who were eligible for unemployment benefits for the benefit week ending May 15, 2021
- To be eligible, individuals must have since stopped filing for unemployment benefits, begin working by Monday, September 6, 2021, and earn \$25 per hour or less (equivalent to a yearly salary of \$52,000, or less) at their new qualifying job.

PROGRAMS

Return-to-Work Bonuses (RTWB)

Arizona will set aside \$300 million of federal resources to offer a one-time bonus of \$2,000 to eligible individuals who return to the workforce and get a full-time job, and \$1,000 to eligible individuals who obtain a part-time job. The bonus will be awarded on a first come, first served basis, after an individual completes at least 320 hours of work for full-time and 160 hours of work for part-time within a 10 week period..

Child Care For Returning Workers

The State will provide three months of child care assistance for individuals who return to work between June 1, 2021 and September 6, 2021, and have children aged 12 years-old or younger. Assistance will be based on the salary of the parent or guardian who returned to work.

Education Incentives

The State will also provide \$7.5 million for community college continuing education scholarships for currently unemployed workers who are eligible for the RTWB — as well as \$6 million for GED test preparation and exam fees for eligible workers without a high school diploma.



Arizona set aside \$300 million of federal resources to offer a one-time Return to Work bonus (RTWB) of \$2,000 to eligible individuals who return to the workforce and get a full-time job, and \$1,000 to eligible individuals who obtain a part-time job.

Eligible individuals can receive \$2,000 after working the equivalent of eight 40-hour weeks (320 hours) or more of taxable income over ten consecutive weeks since returning to work (after May 13, 2021) OR eligible individuals can receive \$1,000 after working the equivalent of eight 20-hour weeks (160 hours) or more of taxable income over ten consecutive weeks since returning to work (after May 13, 2021). The bonus will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.

ELIGIBILITY

Individuals are eligible for the RTWB if they:

- Filed for unemployment benefits, and are eligible for benefits in Arizona by Benefit Week Ending (BWE) May 15, 2021;
- Individuals filing initial unemployment benefit claims after the benefit week ending May 15, 2021, will not be eligible for the RTWB, even if they are filing for weeks prior to the week ending May 15, 2021.
- Return to the workforce between May 13, 2021 and September 6, 2021, and begin full-time or part-time qualifying employment;
- Make \$25 per hour or less, equivalent to \$52,000 annually, at their new, qualifying job; and
- Have not previously received an RTWB.

Verification of employment will be required prior to authorization of benefits. Individuals will be required to provide documentation to confirm employment and earnings.

HOW TO PREPARE

- **Eligible employees:** Save your pay stubs for each week of qualifying work. You will upload these paystubs into the application portal.
- **Employers:** Designate an official email address and phone number that your eligible employees may provide to DES. DES will contact you to verify employees' hours worked.

Additional details can be found at des.az.gov/back-to-work-program