

Arkansas is submitting its application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in order for qualified Arkansans to receive \$300 a week in Enhanced Unemployment Compensation. This announcement comes as the state added over 700 new coronavirus cases to its total.

Speaking during his daily briefing on the pandemic, Gov. Asa Hutchinson said though the state legislature approved of the unemployment compensation yesterday through a peer review and said funding still needs to go through the legislative council, it was important to apply early.

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“...in need”

“It will save us days and days if we go ahead and get that application in, to allow FEMA to start processing that. If we do not have the appropriate appropriations for it we can withdraw that application. But this will put us ahead of the curve and if all of the systems work and say “go,” then we’ll be earlier in line to get those benefits to those Arkansans that are in need,” Hutchinson said.

If approved, the money Arkansans will receive on a weekly basis on this program is half of \$600 they received from the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program, which expired in July.

According to numbers from the Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas saw 729 new cases of COVID-19, bringing the state’s total to 54,216. The state added 7 hospitalizations for a total of 499, while 12 more Arkansans died from the coronavirus. The death toll in the state is now 631.

The state says in the past 24 hours, they have received 6,025 testing results.

Pulaski county had the highest number of new COVID-19 cases with 65. Jefferson county had the second highest with 56, while Sebastian county added 52.