

Arkansans who qualified for the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program could eventually receive funding from a new program from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, though it would be half of what they received on a weekly basis.

Speaking during his daily briefing on the coronavirus pandemic, Gov. Asa Hutchinson said the state applied today for FEMA's Enhanced Unemployment Compensation program, though the state has yet to finalize approval for the funding.

Hutchinson said the state could retract its application if the funding is not passed by the state's legislative council, but it was important to get early in line for the program if its approved. However, it will be weeks before anyone sees that new weekly funding.

**NEWS07**

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**"...is approved"**

According to numbers from the state Department of Health, Arkansas added 729 new cases of COVID-19, bringing the state's total to 54,216. Of those total cases, 5,919 are considered active.

Ten counties in the state added 20 or more cases. Pulaski county added the highest number of new cases with 65, while Jefferson and Sebastian County added 56 and 52 new cases respectively.

Hospitalizations increased by 7, for 499 cases. 12 more Arkansans died from COVID-19. The death toll is now 631.

In the past 24 hours, the state has recorded 6,025 test results.