

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ODJFS Releases Unemployment Overpayments Update

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Matt Damschroder today provided its quarterly update on unemployment overpayments made over the course of the pandemic. The overpayments are attributable to both fraudulent and non-fraudulent activity in both the traditional unemployment and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) programs. They include any weekly monetary add-ons claimants received, called Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation.

As of Feb. 7, 2022, ODJFS had identified approximately \$5.8 billion in fraud and non-fraud overpayments. This includes:

- \$51 million in fraudulent overpayments in the traditional unemployment system.
- \$455 million in fraudulent PUA overpayments.
- \$784 million in non-fraud overpayments in the traditional system.
- \$4.5 billion in non-fraud PUA overpayments.

Since the start of the pandemic, ODJFS has paid more than \$24 billion in benefits to more than 2.4 million claimants.

Fraud and non-fraud overpayments are reported to the U.S. Department of Labor on a regular basis for cases in which the agency issues an appealable determination. Therefore, the numbers are fluid. They change as pending claims are processed, as appeals are evaluated, and/or if the agency receives evidence that a previously identified non-fraud overpayment was actually the result of identity theft or other types of fraud.

A chart detailing the overpayments reported to date can be found [here](#).

-30-

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services manages vital programs that strengthen Ohio families. These include job training and employment services, unemployment insurance, cash and food assistance, child care, child and adult protective services, adoption, and child support services.

