



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

October 19, 2020

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**The House is in recess
The Senate is back in session
There is a CR until December 11**

Washington Update

Stimulus Negotiations

On Saturday, October 17, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (KY) said the Senate will hold two votes this week on a half-trillion dollar coronavirus relief package, even though the chances of a bill getting through Congress before election day remains unlikely. On Tuesday, October 20, the Senate will vote on additional money for the Paycheck Protection Program, whose lending authority expired on August 8th with about \$134 billion unspent. On Wednesday, October 21, the Senate will vote on the rest of the package. Democrats have already dismissed this move as inadequate, and are not expected to support the proposals. The legislation, which is nearly identical to the one Republicans attempted to pass in September, includes \$300 in boosted federal weekly unemployment benefits through the end of December, as well money for testing and reopening schools.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (CA) and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin continue to discuss a broader relief package. Last week, Mnuchin said he would accept the Speaker's COVID testing and tracing language but the White House still has issues with her request for state and local funding. Senate Republicans who are up for re-election in close races have repeatedly called for Congress to reach an agreement. President Trump has encouraged Senate Republicans to "Go big or go home!!!" on a stimulus package and suggested that he could persuade the GOP to get on board. McConnell, however, has made it clear his caucus will not support anything close to the \$1.8 trillion in relief the White House is proposing. The likelihood of a deal before election day is slim.

House Budget Committee

On Wednesday, October 14, Congressman Bill Johnson (OH) announced that he is running to be the top Republican on the House Budget Committee - a panel that could see major action next year if Democrats win the White House and Senate and try to use "budget reconciliation" to pass legislation with a simple majority in the upper chamber. Johnson could have some competition for the position, however, as Congressman Jason Smith (MO), who is next in seniority after Johnson, isn't ruling out a bid.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month: An Opportunity to Reflect and Reimagine

Pamela Nabors, CEO of CareerSource Central Florida (CSCF) and WDC First Vice President, has written an article for the WDC website to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) this October, which includes information on how WDC members can participate in NDEAM celebrations and get involved with the WDC Disability Employment Working Group.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

Initial Jobless Claims

In the week ending October 10, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 898,000, an increase of 53,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 5,000 from 840,000 to 845,000. The 4-week moving average was 866,250, an increase of 8,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,250 from 857,000 to 858,250. The advance seasonally adjusted insured unemployment rate was 6.8 percent for the week ending October 3, a decrease of 0.9 percentage point from the previous week's revised rate.

[Click here](#) to read the full report.

DOL/ETA

Investing in Skills Training

\$150 million is available through the H-1B One Workforce Grant Program to invest in workforce training for key U.S. employment sectors, including information technology, cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing and transportation. Grant applications close on November 12.

[Click here](#) to access the grant application.

Sixth Annual National Apprenticeship Week Will Be Held November 8-14, 2020

The U.S. Department of Labor announced that the sixth annual National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) will occur from November 8 through 14, 2020. NAW is a nationwide celebration that gives businesses, communities, and educators the opportunity to showcase their apprenticeship programs and apprentices and the value their apprenticeship programs offer businesses, career seekers and the community as a whole.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

WDC in the News

ADA Anniversary Offers Lessons for Our Time

Central Florida's business leaders are facing unprecedented challenges as a result of COVID-19 and the resulting economic devastation. That's all the more reason for us to reflect on the power of workforce policies to help address serious challenges head-on. This summer marked 30 years since the signing of one of the nation's most influential civil rights laws, the Americans with Disabilities Act, or ADA. When signed by President George H.W. Bush, this landmark, bipartisan legislation established legal protections and recourse for helping to combat widespread discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

Today, this legislation affects nearly every American. According to the CDC, 1 in 4 adults (61 million) in the U.S. live with a disability. Mobility impairment is the most common, followed by cognition, hearing, vision and independent living. But accommodations for the disabled have much broader impact. Ramps intended to accommodate wheelchair users also assist those pushing a child's stroller or pulling a suitcase, for example. Closed-caption programming, which expanded access to verbal

information for the hearing-impaired, is increasingly popular among nondisabled members of Gen Z, who cite improved comprehension as a main benefit.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

The Peril of America's Domestic Workers

The day President Trump returned from Walter Reed Medical Center battling COVID-19, it was possible to miss in the news cycle that two White House housekeeping staff tested positive for the virus several weeks prior. Even in the most secure home office on the planet, COVID-19 posed a threat to the lives and livelihoods of those who do some of the most essential work in our economy: caring for our living spaces and the people in them.

Whether at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW or a house on your block, domestic work takes place beyond public view, but its workers are squarely on the frontlines of COVID-19. Domestic workers are the 2.5 million home care workers assisting our elders and other family members with health conditions or disabilities, the nannies caring for our kids, and the cleaners sanitizing our homes. This workforce is overwhelmingly comprised of women, predominantly people of color and disproportionately immigrants to the U.S. As the pandemic emerged, many households that engaged domestic workers — either as independent contractors through agencies or through informal payment — at least temporarily ended their services. These separations severely heightened the financial precarity facing one of America's largest, and least respected, workforces.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

HP Study Unveils the Rise of the 'Empowered Employee'

On Thursday, October 15, HP Inc. released the results of its HP Workforce Evolution Study (WES) that reveals how the acceleration of digitization and remote work caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the need for reskilling, with 6 in 10 office workers in the U.S. and Europe agreeing that lifelong learning is now more important than ever before.

In the face of decreased job security, HP's study identifies a new trend in the rise of the "Empowered Employee" – office workers who are retraining themselves with the skills needed to succeed beyond their current roles and for the future of work. More than 40% are doing so through online programs, like HP Life — a free, skills-training program for entrepreneurs, business owners, and lifelong learners all over the world — that has seen an impressive 282% growth in signups compared to the same period in 2019.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

Rewriting Job Training: Nonprofit Workforce Development Groups Face Influx of Job Seekers with Varied Backgrounds

Nonprofits that offer workforce development programming have had to make rapid adjustments this year to train and support a growing number of job seekers who are coming to them with a broader range of backgrounds and experiences. Efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 and offer safer learning environments forced training opportunities online, which has highlighted the digital divide and sent programs scrambling to find funds to build inventories of computers and hotspots to lend to job seekers. The loss of physical spaces for information sessions or career fairs has made connecting with some job seekers a bit more difficult, especially if they aren't active on social media or other platforms that organizations have been using to share resources.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

Dallas Orgs Get \$7 Million of JPMorgan Chase's \$10 Million Investment in Texas to Sustain Equal Access to Opportunity

As one of the largest employers in the state, JPMorgan Chase wants to prepare Texans for the future of work while breaking down barriers to opportunity for underserved communities. Of its newest philanthropic investment, \$7M will locally benefit The Commit Partnership, Dallas ISD, Dallas College, and UNT Dallas.

Over the last five years, JPMorgan Chase has invested \$25 million in the Texas workforce to grow the number of career pathways for underserved communities. Now, the leading global financial services firm is further that commitment by way of \$10 million, which will go to creating and sustaining opportunity in those areas. It's part of JPMorgan Chase's new \$30 billion commitment to "advance racial equity and drive an inclusive economic recovery," the company said.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

Reports & Articles

New from Brookings

Women are Advancing in the Workplace, But Women of Color Still Lag Behind

A little over 100 years ago, the U.S. Congress ratified the 19th amendment, which ruled that women could not be denied the right to vote because of their sex. This amendment

was the result of hard-fought efforts from many women (and some men) who recognized that disenfranchisement then, as now, was a blight on the nation and hindered the U.S.'s potential to achieve its stated goals of becoming a functioning democracy. The 19th amendment was especially significant for Black women who, despite the 15th amendment's promises of voting rights regardless of race, still could not vote because of their gender. The fact that it took two different constitutional amendments—passed a half century apart—to secure Black women's right to vote underscores how both race and gender have always mattered in significant ways when it comes to women of color.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

Why Has COVID-19 Been Especially Harmful for Working Women?

After decades of struggle, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution gave women in the United States the right to vote. This hard-won right foretold the increasing presence of women not only in the voting booth, but also in the workplace. By the beginning of this year, the centennial of the 19th Amendment's ratification, women's labor force participation stood at 58%, nearly a three-fold increase since 1920. Without the increasing participation of women in the workforce, household income growth of the middle class would have remained largely stagnant since the late 1970s.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

Fast Fact

About two-thirds of Americans (64%) say social media has a mostly negative effect on the way things are going in the country today, according to a Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted July 13-19, 2020.



THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
