

**Congress Delays Return;
UI Claims Over 22 Million**

**Is this email not
displaying correctly?**



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

April 20, 2020

Please Visit our Website at: www.uscmwdc.org

Washington Update

Congressional Schedule

On Tuesday, April 14, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (MD) announced that the House has decided not to return today, April 20, as originally scheduled. Lawmakers were advised that they will likely convene on Monday, May 4, unless there is an emergency that requires them to return. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said the Senate also does not plan a return to Washington before May 4. Both chambers are holding *pro forma* sessions.

Higher Education Act Reauthorization

Back in February, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (TN) expressed optimism at the annual Community College Legislative Summit that the committee would reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA) this year. Many Republicans on the committee shared his optimism and felt a

deal was so close that Alexander could schedule a vote in the near future. Then the COVID-19 pandemic happened - creating a public health crisis, shuttering businesses, and keeping lawmakers off the Hill - which delayed action on any possible reauthorization. Hopes of a deal and committee vote have pretty much been dashed as full attention has now turned to stimulus packages and helping workers and businesses merely survive.

Career and Technical Education

On Tuesday, April 14, Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos announced that career and technical education (CTE) programs can donate or loan medical supplies purchased with federal funds to help with the coronavirus response effort - many of which buy supplies through federal grant programs for hands-on instruction. The guidance allows CTE programs to donate unused equipment to public health agencies, private nonprofit hospitals and other licensed health providers.

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

Unemployment Claims

On Thursday, April 16, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that Americans filed 5.2 million jobless claims in the week ending April 11, pushing the total for the past four weeks above 22 million. That erases nearly as many jobs as were created during the decade-long recovery period from the Great Recession of 2007-2009. Economists say unemployment may now exceed 15 percent, which would be the highest since the Great Depression in the 1930s. As of March 28, about half of unemployment claims were approved and by April 4 that figure had risen to between 60-69 percent.

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

DOL/ETA

TEGL: Availability of Program Year 2019 Funding for State Apprenticeship Expansion Grants, “Building State Capacity to Expand Apprenticeship through Innovation”

On Tuesday, April 14, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) released the Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) “Building State Capacity to Expand Apprenticeship through Innovation.”

[Click here](#) to access the full TEGL.

Department of Labor Awards More Than \$131 Million in Dislocated Worker Grants in Response to Coronavirus Public Health Emergency

On Wednesday, April 15, the U.S. Department of Labor announced the award of the first installment of 26 Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs) totaling \$131,384,557 to help address the workforce-related impacts of the coronavirus public health emergency. These awards are funded under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which provided \$345 million for DWGs to prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared the coronavirus a nationwide public health emergency on Jan. 31, 2020. The Federal Emergency Management Agency also issued coronavirus emergency declarations for states, outlying areas and Indian tribal governments on March 13, 2020. These federal declarations enable the Secretary of Labor to award Disaster Recovery DWGs to help address the workforce-related impacts of this public health emergency.

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

COVID-19 and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Resources for WIOA Youth Practitioners

The Division of Youth Services (DYS) within the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) understands the impact the coronavirus (COVID-19) is having on your programs and the youth you serve. DYS has identified youth-related COVID-19 resources you may find useful, as well as new technical assistance resources to help support your work serving our nation’s most vulnerable young people. ETA has created a COVID-19 Resources web page which includes a series of technical assistance resources and frequently asked questions (FAQs). This page, with frequent updates, will help address grants management questions related to COVID-19 to help state and local workforce leaders during this crisis.

[Click here](#) to visit the website.

WDC in the News

Job Opportunities

The Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership (The Partnership), which combines federal and philanthropic resources to broaden the reach and impact of workforce development services for both employers and job seekers in Cook County, has two job vacancies - Director of Communications and Chief Program Officer.

[Click here](#) to access the job listings.

IMF Predicts Global Contraction on Par with Great Depression

The global economy is expected to contract by 3 percent in 2020 as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the International Monetary Fund predicted in its annual World Economic Outlook released Tuesday. "It is very likely that this year the global economy will experience its worst recession since the Great Depression, surpassing that seen during the global financial crisis a decade ago," IMF Economic Counsellor Gita Gopinath wrote in the report. "The Great Lockdown, as one might call it, is projected to shrink global growth dramatically."

Economic recovery is expected in 2021, but the extent of any new growth will likely depend on the duration of the pandemic and policies that governments take to stimulate the economy. If the pandemic fades in the second half of this year, the world economy is projected to grow by 5.8 percent in 2021 with the help of government support. U.S. economic output is expected to contract by 5.9 percent in 2020 but could see 4.7 percent growth in 2021. Global trade in goods and services is expected to drop 11 percent this year but could increase by 8.4 percent next year.

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

Punching In: The Latest COVID-19 Benefits, Liability Questions

More states should be gradually launching unemployment insurance system upgrades this week to accommodate gig workers. It's fair to say many are struggling to grasp the complexities of the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program for independent contractors and others who typically aren't eligible for jobless benefits.

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

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Announces New Mobile-Friendly Site to Apply for Reemployment Assistance

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity announced a new mobile-friendly online application for reemployment assistance. The online mobile friendly application is only for claimants that do not have an open reemployment assistance claim. Any citizen, who has lost their job due to COVID-19, is encouraged to complete a Reemployment Assistance application.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

Reports & Articles

New from Brookings

How COVID-19 Will Change the Nation's Long-Term Economic Trends

Will the coronavirus change everything? While that sentiment feels true to the enormity of the crisis, it likely isn't quite right, as scholars from the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program have been exploring since the pandemic began. Instead, the COVID-19 crisis seems poised to accelerate or intensify many economic and metropolitan trends that were already underway, with huge implications of their own.

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

What is Work Sharing and How Can It Help the Labor Market?

When economic conditions worsen, as they did beginning in March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, employers often respond by laying off their employees. This can lead to very undesirable outcomes for society at large. Research shows that losing a job often causes decreased long-term earning, health problems, and other adverse outcomes, the effects of which can last generations. Layoffs create future costs for employers as well - once demand picks back up, firms will have to expend valuable resources on significant search, hiring, and training costs.

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

Businesses Owned By Women and Minorities Have Grown. Will COVID-19 Undo That?

There are two small business crises in the United States. The first - the sudden shock to small businesses induced by COVID-19 - is acute and immediate. Our recent analysis indicates that over 50% of small businesses with employees (an astounding 4 million establishments) face immediate or near-term risks due to the pandemic. The second crisis - the structural racial and gender disparities in business ownership - is continuous and long-standing, but equally damaging. Nationally, people of color represent about 40% of the population, but only 20% of the nation's 5.6 million business owners with employees. The U.S. could have millions more businesses if women and minorities became entrepreneurs at the same rate as white men.

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

New from Aspen Institute

Job Quality in Practice Webinar: Worker Organizations Respond to the COVID-19 Crisis

The global pandemic and economic aftermath place us in a time of unprecedented uncertainty with respect to our work and well-being. Frontline workers are bearing an excessive burden. Despite the vital roles they play in keeping our economy moving, they are underpaid, overworked, and lacking essential health protections. And frontline worker roles are disproportionately filled by women and people of color, further exacerbating the divides of race, ethnicity, and gender. A pre-crisis wave of worker activism—among tech workers, teachers, and others—was responding to already challenging working conditions for millions. As crisis conditions are now threatening the livelihoods and lives of millions of workers, will this wave of activism accelerate? In earlier eras, worker organizations played critical roles in improving the quality of work—are we in a similar moment?

In this session we will hear from leaders with long experience in organizing working people to tell their story, raise their voice and build the power to demand better. This webinar is the fifth in our Job Quality in Practice webinar series. The Job Quality in Practice series is designed to support practitioners across fields – including workforce development, economic development, capital deployment, policy, worker advocacy, and business – to address job quality in their work. Webinars share updates on current conditions and priorities as well as actionable tools and approaches. We also seek to highlight leading practitioners' work and create connections across disciplines. The webinar will take place on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 2:00 PM (EST).

[Click here](#) to register.

New from MDRC

Voices from the Field: How Community Colleges are Advancing Equity in Career and Technical Education

A changing economy and rapid advancements in technology have resulted in mismatches between employers' needs and workers' skills in a number of fields — and are likely to continue to generate new ones. Many people in postsecondary education and workforce development see community college career and technical education (CTE) as a way to fill shortages in the labor market while providing a pathway to economic mobility for many Americans. CTE provides occupational preparation and training that often culminates in shorter-term credentials such as certificates; it may or may not provide credits that can be used for college degrees. One important question about CTE programs at community colleges is: Are they equipped to provide those pathways to economic mobility equitably (that is, regardless of individuals' races, ethnicities, genders, socioeconomic backgrounds, or geographic regions, or the intersection of these characteristics)?

In 2019, MDRC's Center for Effective CTE conducted a scan of notable community college CTE programs across the country to identify promising practices and common challenges. During the conversations held as part of the scan, it became evident that as CTE programs try to address skill gaps in the labor market, many have also already begun to address equity in creative ways.

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

MDRC's Career and Technical Education Projects

The past decade has seen a resurgence of interest in career and technical education (CTE) as a way to engage students, help people build the skills necessary to succeed in a technologically advanced economy, and meet employer demand for workers. MDRC — which has a two-decade history of developing and evaluating CTE programs, including our landmark study of Career Academies — is partnering with over a dozen CTE programs to build evidence and inform policy and practice. MDRC's Center for Effective CTE seeks to synthesize lessons learned from CTE projects (with middle and high schools, community colleges, and workforce organizations) and illuminate big-picture issues including those related to equity in access and outcomes, employer engagement, advising, and choices and decision-making. It also examines how the future of work will shape the evolution of CTE.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

New from the Center for American Progress

How Congress Can Help Small Businesses Weather the Coronavirus Pandemic

There is a staggering number of small businesses nationwide that are at immediate or near-term risk of failure due to the shutdown of commerce in the effort to combat the spread of COVID-19. Looking only at businesses with fewer than 250 employees, a recent Brookings Institution analysis estimated that 54 percent of businesses and 47.8 million jobs fall into those categories of immediate or near-term risk; 70 percent of those businesses are microbusinesses employing fewer than 10 employees. These smaller businesses, along with their employees, are most vulnerable to the economic fallout of the new coronavirus because they typically lack more than a few weeks' worth of cash reserves.

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

Fast Fact

Over 57% of working Americans today are employed on an hourly basis or are self-employed.



THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
