Talks in Congress about the next wave of coronavirus support are now restarting, a month after the $600 a week federal enhanced unemployment insurance benefit expired. President Trump’s executive order offered $300, but there have been obstacles to accessing that. Providing enhanced unemployment insurance, whether $600 or $300, no doubt has helped keep many Americans afloat.

However, if the goal is to give workers the necessary tools to help them get out of poverty and into better jobs, this falls short. For America’s economy to recover, this support must be coupled with real investment in upgrading Americans’ education and skills.

For that, Congress needs to adequately fund workforce development, the sector that provides workers with the training they need to get good jobs. However, with each additional stimulus proposal, workforce funding has decreased: from $15.6 billion for the workforce system in the Relaunching America’s Workforce Act to $2 billion in the HEROES Act, now it down to $950 million in this Senate Republican package. By comparison, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2009, with far lower national unemployment, the investment was closer to $5 billion.

The situation in New York is a vivid example of the situation nationwide. New York was hit hard by COVID-19 early, so we can see the early effects more clearly there. As of mid-July, over 3.2 million New Yorkers are accessing Unemployment Insurance benefits (nearly three times the number during the Great Recession) and an additional 1.2 million were receiving the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

The Bronx — which has suffered the largest number of deaths per 100,000 residents from COVID-19 in New York City — had an unemployment rate of 24.7% last month. This aligns with the national projections, as low-wage workers, young adults and people of color are disproportionately impacted by the health and labor market impacts of the pandemic.
The Future Works Podcast Launches New Episode

Since its launch in March 2020, **THE FUTURE WORKS** podcast has featured intimate conversations with some of the most interesting and influential individuals within the workforce sector.

In this month’s episode, NYATEP Executive Director, Melinda Mack sits down with Michael Seereiter, President and CEO for the [NY Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation](https://www.nyalliance.org) to explore the impact of COVID-19 on direct support providers and the individuals they service.

Listen in as we explore the unique challenges facing individuals with disabilities across New York and the uphill battle to get this untapped talent employed.

**Episode 6: A Crisis Within A Crisis - The Untapped Talent of People with Disabilities**

The Future Works podcast is available on both iTunes and Spotify. Use the links below to connect through iTunes and be sure to click subscribe to receive the latest releases!


*Listen to past episodes here:*

- **Episode 5:** The Hunt for the Workforce “Heroes” in D.C.?
- **Episode 4:** Coming of Age During COVID-19 - A Pandemic and Young Adults
- **Episode 3:** Looking Back to the Future
- **Episode 2:** The Economic Downturn in New York No One Saw Coming
- **Episode 1:** Investing in Skills in New York
California’s Approach to Recovery and Resilience: Centering Equity and Job Quality

Questions about the future of work have shifted in this time of pandemic, prompting overdue discussions about workplace health and safety, the unemployment system, health insurance, and fair wages and benefits. What policies can support a thriving future of work? What roles do we want private business to play? And what strategies will build a future of work that addresses long standing inequities and inequalities and provides opportunities for all to thrive? California’s Future of Work Commission and Jobs and Recovery Task Force have been working on these questions since before the pandemic and have begun implementing innovative policies to address the critical challenges facing working people in today’s economy and tomorrow’s.

Featured Speakers

Julie A. Su  
Secretary, California Labor and Workforce Development Agency

Angela Glover Blackwell  
Founder in Residence, PolicyLink; Member, Governor’s Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery

Moderator  
Meghan McCarty Carino  
Workplace Culture Reporter, Marketplace

CLICK TO WATCH THE VIDEO

LEARN MORE HERE
2020 Fall Conference Agenda Sneak Peek - October 27 & 28

We are at a crossroads in the fields of workforce and economic development in New York State. The education and job training system has been faced with decades of dwindling federal and state budgets and even as the economy recovered from the last recession, millions of New Yorkers were still struggling to get by, and lacked the right skills for the jobs. Our job creators were so focused on the number of jobs, that equity, inclusion, and job quality was an aside. Now that COVID-19 has reshaped so many aspects of our daily lives, we think it is also time that it reshapes how we approach workforce and economic development. New Yorkers deserve better.

The agenda this year is focused on Building Back Better and making sure no population is left behind. A sneak peak at some of the workshops planned are:

**BUILDING BACK BETTER: FOCUSING ON JOB QUALITY**
Featuring experts from the field such as Janice Urbanik, National Fund for Workforce Solutions, Robert Simpson, CenterStateCEO, Optimax, Amalgamated Bank and Federal Reserve.

**THE ROAD AHEAD FOR SECTORS IMPACTED BY COVID-19**
Join top leaders in the tourism, hospitality and retail industries for a panel discussion on what they are doing to survive the impact on the industry, and what needs to happen to save it.

**THE CREATIVE ECONOMY**
Hear from leaders in the Music, Film and Entertainment field to gain insight to what is happening to the creative economy in this economic downturn, what is being done to spread awareness for those in the industry who are unemployed and solutions on how to bring back jobs and the industry.

**PATHWAYS FOR CAREER CHANGE: TRANSITIONING FROM HOSPITALITY TO HEALTHCARE JOBS- TRANSPORTABLE SKILLS AND LIFEBOAT JOBS**
Service workers possess many baseline skills that are transportable across a wide range of industry sectors and organizational structures. These transportable skills can allow workers to build bridges to new roles and industries such as health care. These skills are broader and more difficult to measure than technical skills, causing them to be undervalued in many job postings. The Federal Reserve of Atlanta will show how O’NET’s descriptors for workplace activities measure transportable skills across industries and create new pathways to jobs.
Employment and Training Administration Announcements
Updated through August 21

GUIDANCE

- The Employment and Training Administration has announced that the Workforce Information Advisory Council will meet virtually over a three day period (September 8 – September 10). The meeting will be open to the public. Information for public attendance at the virtual meeting will be posted at www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/wiaa/wiac/meetings several days prior to the meeting date. The August 24 FEDERAL REGISTER provides complete background.

- Department of Labor Announces Release of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Workers Final Rule and Amended Information Collections Associated with this Rulemaking; Series of Webinars to Provide “Walk-Through” of Major Sections. More information can be found here: https://taa.workforcegps.org/.

- Department of Education Issues New Distance Learning Regulations to Spur High-Quality Distance and Competency-Based Programs, Better Serve Diverse Population of Higher Education which can be found HERE.

RESOURCES

- COVID-19 Information for State Unemployment Insurance Agencies: A list of guidance, policies, and resources to help states respond to the COVID-19 pandemic

- The Evaluation and Research Hub (Eval Hub) is a community point of access to support workforce development professionals in their efforts to use evaluations to improve workforce system services and strategies and to choose evaluations and research to help inform program policies and evidence-based practices.

- ETA Publishes Research on Technology Based Learning - On August 21, ETA’s Office of Policy Development and Research posted the following reports/documentation on its webpage which can be found
  - Development and Education: A Review of the Research Literature
  - Technology-Based Learning in the Public Workforce System: Emerging Policy and Practices in States and American Job Centers
  - The Use of Technology-Based Learning for Basic Skills in Job Corps

FUNDING

- Announcing the 2020 Career and Technical Education Through Pay for Success Competition, Social Finance and JFF are excited to host a national Pay for Success (PFS) competition to expand career and technical education (CTE) for under-served, high-need youth. This effort is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE). Access the RFP here.
Shovels crashed into a pile of rocks, which 11 workers then spread out Thursday morning off the Lime Hollow Nature Center’s Lehigh Valley Trail in Cortlandville.

The group, mostly teenagers employed by the center through Cortland Works Career Center, have helped clear out trash from more than 100 acres of land this summer to make way for a 1.2-mile trail that runs around its marl ponds, Executive Director Glenn Reisweber said.

A marl pond is a temporary pond that disappears as the water level recedes, according to SUNY Cortland’s department of biological sciences. They are marked by high levels of calcium carbonate, which both makes the water basic and sediments on the bottom of the ponds a whitish color.

The work included removing trash — including 178 tires — that had been accumulating for three or four decades, he said.

Reisweber said that he thinks about 90% of the 106 acres — which the town of Cortlandville owns but Lime Hollow maintains — has been cleared of trash. Work clearing it ended earlier this week.

work to lead groups of kids, Barclay said.

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**NYS Department of Labor Weekly Unemployment Data**

As of the week ending 8/22/20, there are **3,550,580 UI initial claims with 1,422,725 on Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.** All statewide industries experienced an increase in initial claims for Unemployment Insurance over the past year. Learn more in the full report.
Register Today for the
PARTNERING WITH PROBATION AND PAROLE webinar
September 16, 12:00pm - 1:00pm EST

Join Level Up and Center for Employment Opportunities for our 6-part webinar series, Criminal Justice and the Workforce System!

This unique and tailored session of the webinar series will provide:
- Identifying the differences and attributes between probation and parole
- How program referrals fit into a reentry process
- Best practices for staying in touch with Corrections agents
- Ethical challenges many professionals face when aligning program objectives with corrections agencies

This webinar is ideal for frontline staff, case workers and community organizations looking to train and hire individuals with a justice involved history. There will be an opportunity for Q&A with the experts to support the learning.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND THE WORKFORCE SYSTEM PRESENTED BY CENTER FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Part 5:** Partnering with Probation and Parole [webinar]
  September 16, 12:00pm - 1:00pm EST
  Cost $100
- **Part 6:** Understanding Ban the Box and other New York regulations - A webinar presented by CEO [webinar]
  October 14, 12:00pm - 1:00pm EST
  Cost $100

VISIT WWW.LEVELUP-NY.COM TO LEARN MORE
Upcoming Member Information, Events & Funding Opportunities

 JOB OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FINGER LAKES WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

Looking for an individual with expertise in Federal, New York State and local labor regulations, especially those pertaining to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. All those interested should apply. Candidates who applied during our earlier search and are still interested in the position are encouraged to re-apply.

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

 JOB OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CAPITAL REGION WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Capital Region Workforce Development Board (WDB) actively seeks a strategic and innovative leader to develop, implement and execute comprehensive workforce solutions across the Capital Region, specifically in conjunction with Albany, Rensselaer, and Schenectady counties.

Interested and qualified applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to CapitalRegionWDB@capreg.org by September 30, 2020 for confidential consideration by the Board’s selection committee.

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

 JOB OPPORTUNITY

SKILLS TRANSFORMATION CONSULTANT

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

2021 Mayoral Candidate Fireside Chats

The NYC Employment and Training Coalition is hosting a series of 2021 Mayoral Candidate Fireside Chats with candidates for the office of NYC Mayor.

Thursday, September 10 - Eric Adams
Thursday, October 15 - Scott Stringer
Thursday, November 5 - Loree Sutton

RSVP HERE