New York State Workforce Strategy Group Launches to Get New Yorkers Back to Work

Albany, New York, JULY 15, 2020 – Workforce development coalition Invest in Skills NY (ISNY) today launched a New York State Workforce Strategy Group to develop clear, actionable policy and funding recommendations for an equitable economic recovery in New York during a time of record high unemployment and underemployment. The group’s recommendations will be presented to Governor Cuomo’s office and the New York State Legislature by Labor Day 2020.

“With nearly four million New Yorkers who need to get back to work, rethinking how we fund and approach education, job training and employment is critical,” said Melinda Mack, co-founder of ISNY and Executive Director of NYATEP. “We aren’t sure what jobs are going to recover, and prior to COVID-19 many New Yorkers were barely scraping by. We have a chance to change this trend, and it will take a collaborative approach to address the systemic challenges that were exacerbated by the pandemic and to ensure workforce development is part of the economic recovery.”

The state has distributed $25 billion in unemployment benefits to 2.9 million New Yorkers since the pandemic began, according to the New York State Department of Labor. Unemployment rates have also disproportionately impacted low income communities, people of color and women.

“What the COVID-19 crisis has shown is the reliance of our economy on low-wage service jobs, with the average pre-layoff wage of individuals under $40,000 in NYS,” stated Brian Williams, Commissioner of Employment & Training and Director of the Rensselaer County Career Center. “As a workforce development system, the investment needs to foster the alignment of skills-based career and educational pathways that are driven by the businesses needs. This roadmap may have several on and off ramps, but should ultimately lead to economic sufficiency and success of all workers.”
“New York City lost around 20% of its jobs in the first three months of the pandemic, so it’s imperative that we build a more equitable and sustainable workforce system to address this,” said Kevin Stump, co-chair of ISNY and Senior Vice President at JobsFirstNYC. “We’re looking forward to working with partners across the state to provide insights and present creative and lasting solutions.”

The NYS Workforce Strategy Group is made up of known, effective leaders and innovators in the business, nonprofit, education, and job training community, representing both upstate and downstate. Together they will work through the systemic challenges, including insufficient and inflexible funding, federal and state policy barriers, and present new, innovative ideas to reskill and upskill New Yorkers.

Thank you to our Advisory Group Members:

Abby Jo Sigal  Here to Here
Aimee Durfee  CenterStateCEO
Ale Mendoza  Optimax
Amber Mooney  Business Council of NYS
Andre White  Phipps Neighborhoods
Anthony Gaddy  Upstate NY Black Chamber of Commerce
Brian Williams  NYATEP & Renesselaer County Employment & Training
David Garza  Henry Street Settlement
Ira Yankwitt  Literacy Assistance Center
Jane MacKillop  CENY & Lehman College
Jesse Roylance  NYACCE & Washington Irving Educational Center
Jessica Centeno  Center for Employment Opportunities
Jose Ortiz  NycETC
Joseph Dragone  Capital Region BOCES
Judith Smith  NYC Workforce Funders Group
Katie Geise  NYS WDB Council & Chautauqua Works
Katya Gaul Stigge  Goodwill of NY and NJ
Keith Rasmussen  SEEDCO
Kevin Stump  JobsFirstNYC
Liliana Polo McKenna  Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow
Marlene Cintron  Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation
Martha Punge  Manufacturers Association of Central NY
Melinda Mack  NYATEP
Merrill Pond  Partnership for NYC
Michael Seereiter  NYS Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation
Patrick Kaler  Visit Buffalo Niagara
Plinio Ayala  Per Scholares
Randy Peers  Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
Rosalie Drago  Suffolk County Department of Labor
Roscoe Naguit  Niagara Global Tourism Institute
Ryan Silva  NYS Economic Development Council
Sandi Vito  SEIU 1199 Employment & Training Fund
Stacy Woodruff  WPTI/NYC Workforce HUB
Stephen Tucker  Northland Training Center
Todd Oldham  Monroe Community College
Vanessa Preston  Grant Associates
Vivian Benton  Workforce Development Institute

FACTS ABOUT THE NYS STRATEGY GROUP

- Made up of statewide leaders and advocates
- Meeting until Labor Day to craft recommendation to the Governor
- Led by Invest in Skills NY, NYATEP will be outreaching to members for feedback
- Contact Melinda Mack, at MMACK@NYATEP.ORG
NYATEP Launches 2020 Workforce Development Survey

The workforce development field is moving quicker than ever and your feedback is vital as we shape NYATEP’s advocacy agenda and service offerings for the coming year.

Please take a few minutes to fill out this BRIEF survey (it shouldn’t take you more than 10 minutes to complete). We thank you and appreciate your prompt response to this request.

DEADLINE TO COMPLETE SURVEY IS AUGUST 10TH AT 4PM!

NYATEP and NYSEDC to Partner for a Virtual Fall Conference

It's official! Workforce Development and Economic Development are teaming up again for the Forward Together: Fueling New York’s Economic Engine 2020 Fall Conference. Be sure to mark your calendar for Tuesday and Wednesday, October 27th and 28th, as we bring together this dynamic partnership for another year. Sponsorship opportunities, agenda and additional details to follow in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!
Guidance

- COVID-19: Department of Labor Summary of Recent Actions
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Common Performance Reporting: ETA Publishes Sixty-Day PRA Notice
- Department Of Labor Announces Final Rule On Trade Adjustment Assistance For Workers
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act: Department of Education Publishes Priorities and Requirements for Data Management Center

Resources

- SkillUp Coalition Seeks to Boost Economic Mobility for America’s Displaced Frontline Workforce
- APLU and ANSI Workcred Examine How Universities and Certification Bodies Can Offer Degree-Joint Pathways; Seek Thoughts and Considerations from Universities, Employers, Certification Bodies, Students, Researchers and other Stakeholders. The authors would welcome feedback and comments from readers at kelzey@workcred.org or sjyotishi@aplu.org.
- Google IT Certificate Employer Consortium
- Bridging the Digital Divide for Low-Income Consumers, Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support

Funding

- Department of Education’s Call for Peer Reviewers for Reimagine Workforce Preparation Grant Proposals; Resumes Due July 23
- Google Announces Investments in Technology to Support Economic Recovery
- USDA Announces Funding Opportunity under the Delta Health Care Services Grant Program
- Department of Labor Announces Availability of $40 Million in Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants
- Department of Labor Announces Availability of $4.1 Million in Funds to Support Women’s Participation in Apprenticeships and Nontraditional Occupations
- XPRIZE Rapid Reskilling offers $5M to Boost Innovations in Job Training

Read the full report here
NYS Department of Labor Releases New Technical Advisory 20-1

Technical Advisory #20-1 “Implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) During the COVID-19 Emergency” is designed to provide Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) with guidance on the ongoing implementation of WIOA during the COVID-19 emergency. The TA outlines the availability of a waiver of the 80% obligation requirement identified in Workforce Development System Technical Advisory (WDS TA) #16-3: Policy on the Recapture and Redistribution of Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) Formula Funds (3/10/16) for Program Year (PY) 2019.

Attachment A - 80% Obligation Requirement Waiver Information

LWDBs interested in this waiver must submit a waiver request by July 31, 2020. The request must address the following:

- The funding streams the waiver is being requested for (Adult, Dislocated Worker, and/or Youth); and
- The rational for requesting the waiver.

Waiver requests should be made via email to LWDB@labor.ny.gov with the subject line “[LWDB Name] 80% Obligation Requirement Waiver Request” with a CC to the appropriate NYSDOL Fiscal and Program Monitors. Note that should a waiver be granted, LWDBs must continue to keep accurate records of obligations and expenditures of WIOA funding and follow all fiscal reporting requirements.

THE POWER OF THREE:
MAXIMIZING BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT TO SUPPORT RE-EMPLOYMENT

Join the executive directors of the California Workforce Association, Michigan Works! Association, and the New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals for a discussion and cross-state sharing on how local workforce boards can lead the charge by leveraging real-time business intelligence to create meaningful policy that gets people back to work.

JULY 30 | 1:00PM - 3:00PM EST | COST: $225

This event is designed for workforce board directors and business partners responsible for implementing employment solutions at the local level.

Bob Lanter  
Luann Dunsford  
Melinda Mack
New York State Education Department Releases Reopening Guidance

On July 13th, the NYS Department of Education presented school “reopening guidance” to the NYS Board of Regents. Schools are required to submit mandatory “School Reopening Plans” by July 31st. These plans are intended to address the health and safety of students and staff; facilities; modality of instruction, i.e. in person, virtual or hybrid models; as well as address food and nutrition, transportation and student well being.

The State Education department acknowledges that “no one size” will fit all school districts or schools, and that special accommodations will need to be considered for students with disabilities and the most vulnerable students. The ability of New York State’s schools to reopen will have a substantial impact on the state’s workforce system -- from our own staff to supporting businesses and jobseekers. Additionally, many supportive services and programs often tied to school districts including after school programs, career and technical education, etc. may be impacted on decisions included in the re-opening plan. Many districts are seeking input as they develop their planning documents, we encourage your outreach to provide your input into the process.

NYS Department of Labor Weekly Unemployment Data

As of the week ending 7/11/20, there are 3,121,308 UI initial claims with 1,164,329 on Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. All statewide industries, except Transportation and Warehousing, experienced an increase in initial claims for Unemployment Insurance over the past year. Learn more in the full report.
COVID-19’s Unprecedented Impact Alters U.S. Labor Market

By: Joshua Bernstein, Alexander W. Richter and Nathaniel A. Throckmorton | June 23, 2020

A staggering 22.03 million initial claims for unemployment benefits were filed from mid-March to mid-April as the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing stay-at-home policies took hold across the country. Just a month earlier, in February, new claims fell to 211,000 on average per week, the lowest level since November 1969. For additional perspective, 9.07 million new claims were filed during all of the Great Recession, from December 2007 to June 2009.

Among policymakers and economic analysts, an important question is what the response of the labor market will look like in the short and medium terms.

Based on data available in mid-April, there were 5.56 million total employment separations in February 2020, of which 1.76 million were either layoffs or discharges. A total 152.49 million people were employed in the U.S., leading to a 3.7 percent job separation rate.

States address workforce issues pushed to forefront by pandemic

By: Ellen Marrion | July 15, 2020

Faced with the sudden, unprecedented fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. Ned Lamont last month launched a new resource to provide workers and businesses in Connecticut with career tools, including partnering with Indeed and workforce training providers. Last week, the Mississippi Legislature passed a bill appropriating $55 million for short-term training and support of programs for training of employees and others displaced due to the health crisis. Minnesota is partnering with Coursera to offer free courses to its workers that have lost jobs because of the pandemic. And noting the reality that many of the jobs previously held in the service industry will not recover, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation reported that “the first priority for recovery is to reskill and upskill these workers, and get them back to work as soon as possible, at family-sustaining wages that offer them a strong future.” These efforts are just a few of the initiatives underway across the country to address the workforce crisis.
Register Today for the Work with Employers webinar on July 22, 12pm - 1:30pm

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

This unique and tailored webinar series will provide:

- A comprehensive look at the infrastructure of the criminal justice system.
- Employment challenges and opportunities for both the employer and individuals.
- Tactical strategies to support the justice-involved population through policy and action.

THE ROAD TO EQUITY: HOW LEADERS CAN MOVE FROM WORDS TO ACTION IN DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

JULY 28 | 11:00AM - 12:00PM EST | COST: $100

This one-hour, lunch and learn webinar will introduce attendees to the fundamentals of building and implementing DEI programs and identify the key leadership attributes needed to create a more inclusive organization.

- An Introduction to Deloitte’s “Six Signature Traits of Inclusive Leadership” and practical ways to apply traits to leadership style.
- Discussion on the role of leadership in moving the needle on DEI efforts from words to action.
- Benefits of inclusion for your organization.

DEVELOPING CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AND INCLUSIVE LEADERS PARTS I, II, & III [ONLINE WORKSHOP SERIES]

AUG 12, SEPT 9, AND OCT 7 | 9:00AM - 11:00AM EST | COST: $450

In this uniquely designed, online, cohort training, Tangible Development will help executives, managers, and human resource professionals drive a DEI vision throughout the organization. Participants will be guided through three, 2-hour working sessions, building on the learning from each session.

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

- **Part 3: Working with Employers** [webinar]
  July 22, 12:00pm - 1:30pm EST
  Cost: $100
- **Part 4: Serving People With Highly Stigmatized Convictions** [webinar]
  August 19, 12:00pm - 1:00pm EST
  Cost: $100

TANGIBLE DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS:

- **The Road to Equity: How leaders can move from words to action in diversity, equity, and inclusion** [webinar]
  July 28, 11:00am - 12:00pm EST
  Cost: $100
- **Developing Culturally Responsive & Inclusive Leaders** [online workshop series]
  August 12, September 9, and October 7, 9:00am - 11:00am EST
  Cost: $450

NYATEP, CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION, AND MICHIGAN WORKS! ASSOCIATION PRESENT:

- **The Power of Three: Maximizing Business Engagement to Support Re-employment** [webinar]
  July 30, 1:00pm - 3:00pm EST
  Cost: $225

GREG NEWTON FELLOW, STEPHANIE COMPASSO, PRESENTS:

- **Strategies for Working with Youth: Why Work Experiences are Important** [webinar]
  August 4, 12:00pm - 1:00pm EST
  Cost: FREE

CREDENTIAL ENGINE INFORMATION SESSION:

- **Credential Engine Information Session** [webinar]
  August 5, 10:00am - 11:00am EST
  Cost: FREE

VISIT WWW.LEVELUP-NY.COM TO LEARN MORE