



July 10, 2020

Workforce Data Innovations

The demand for workforce data has skyrocketed. The COVID crisis has kept the WDQI community on its toes. Elected leaders, policymakers, industry and education leaders, and workforce programs are all clamoring for

- Data that reveals [labor market dynamics in near-real time](#)
- Insight into maintaining work and connecting people to needed training and new work opportunities, *safely*
- Information about new labor market demands – both new kinds of jobs (e.g., [Remote Work Facilitators](#)) and broader trends (e.g., the [acceleration of automation](#))
- Evidence-based approaches and frameworks for [#BuildingBackBetter](#) – with a commitment to work that works for everyone, everywhere.

The workforce data community is rising to the occasion.

- **Round VI WDQI grantees** are nearing the end of their grant cycles. Their projects predated COVID by a longshot, but the robust data sharing solutions on subsequent reports and tools they built are at the heart of the next-generation workforce intelligence system we need as we recover from the crisis. Have a [listen](#). Have a [look](#).
- **The National Science Foundation's [Convergence Accelerator](#)** hosted an (online) Expo last week in which friends and kindred spirits shared their newest innovations. [RIPL](#), [NASWA](#), [Credential Engine](#), and many others gave us a super interesting glimpse at what's in store. We'll share the videos when they find their way to the interwebs. Since RIPL put the [screencast](#) up on its own site, you can take a look at that one right now. It's about ten minutes. Perfect for an afternoon tea-break.
- **For #DataViz**, Harvard's [Malcolm Weiner Center](#) is crowdsourcing the good. Quartz has us covered on the – *ahem* – [less good](#). And if you prefer the full-on #dataviz waterfall, try [DataVizWeekly](#).

What's Coming

- Any minute now WDQI's own Community of Practice (CoP) on [WorkforceGPS](#) will be live. Stay tuned.

- In-person convenings being what they are (mostly canceled), we're planning an online event. Help us decide how to structure it by taking this [quick poll](#).
- We had some responses to [last month's mention of accessibility](#). There's an interesting disability data dimension here, too, now that workforce programs collect more information about disability from WIOA participants than in prior years. We're looking at opportunities to connect these dots in a Fall webinar series. Thanks for raising the subject.
- Round VII states who have not yet podcasted with us, you are up! We'll be in touch.

Money

Two competitions just out:

- The U.S. Department of Labor's [Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants](#) (\$40M) will expand community colleges' ability to meet labor market demand for a skilled workforce. We're betting state data systems can help track and assess progress. Applications due October 8, 2020.
- The U.S. Department of Education's [Rural Tech Project](#) (\$600,000 challenge) will advance rural technology education and prepare students for the careers of today and tomorrow. (We're betting applicants will need (longitudinal) data support here, too.) Applications due October 8, 2020.

Less is More (in the New Now)

We've had positive feedback on the short form newsletter (thank you!). The upshot of several comments was "We value the breadth of resources that usually show up in the newsletter, but at this moment, we appreciate the brevity." Keep the feedback coming.

Finally, as a reminder, here's the new location of the **ETA** [#COVID19 response resources and FAQ's](#).

COVID et. al. It's hard. It's also our moment. We can help make better work and more inclusive workplaces for more people. This is our charge.

Take care of each other out there.



Kristin Wolff (@kristinwolff), Editor

Maureen Sarver (@maureensarver) & the **SPR/BrightHive Support Team**

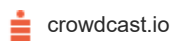
P.S. Since the first Friday was a holiday this month, we waited a week. We hope you found a way to celebrate our nation's birthday. [We did](#).

10 Resources for the New Now



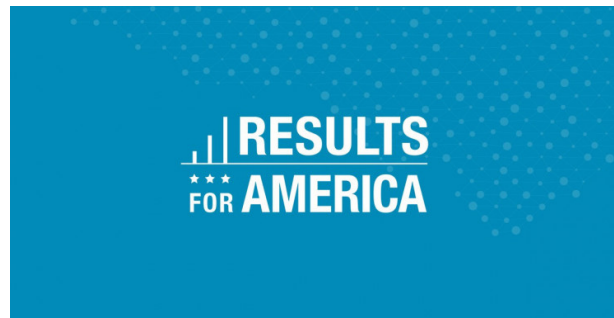
Digital Summit: The Changing Jobs, Careers, and Workforce of the Future

Singularity University returns to the Future of Work with its **next: Work** event, held on May 28, 2020. It's more discussion, less presentation. Recordings from various sessions are [here](#).



Civic Tech Field Guide

What's Civic Tech? It's a question we get from time to time and it's hard to answer, even as it's ever more important in the public data space. [Civic Hall](#), [Luminate](#), and the [Knight Foundation](#) have come to our rescue with this comprehensive guide. It even includes content specific to the [COVID crisis](#). Perfect for a Friday afternoon (virtual) adventure.



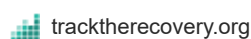
Results for America Blueprint

The Results for America's *Blueprint for Delivering Results in State Government* is a practical guide for state governments to improve policy and programs results by doing what works. State data, policy and research leaders from WDQI grantee states worked with the [National Governors Association](#) and [Results for America](#) partners to develop the Blueprint and related resources. (We see you [CA, KY, NC, and RI!](#))



The Economic Tracker

Our friends at **Opportunity Insights** nail the real-time Economic Tracker.



Move over, data visualization. The era of 'data simulation' is here

"Flatten the curve" was just the beginning. Simulations, games, modeling, and storytelling provide new pathways to discovery in a data context. Next-gen #dataviz is here.

FC fastcompany.com

Tracking the COVID-19 Economic Devastation

Unemployment has reached historic heights, and even depression levels in some states. A dramatic convergence of race, gender, income inequality, skills gaps, and pandemic have rendered many people who were already economically vulnerable even more so. #dataviz #thisisourmoment

 medium.com

What Works to Help Job Seekers with Low Incomes Find and Keep Jobs

Just launched by the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE): an evidence-based and practice-informed clearinghouse of information about what works to help job seekers facing ongoing economic hardship find and keep good jobs. Strategies for practioners. Methodologies for data geeks.

 mathematica.org

Filling the Lifeboats: Getting America Back to Work after the Pandemic

In this first-in-the-series report, Burning Glass Technologies identifies "lifeboat" jobs that workforce agencies can focus on for near-term employment during the pandemic.

 burning-glass.com

Experts predict what it'll take to find a job in a post-COVID-19 world

Insiders at [LinkedIn](#), [Glassdoor](#), and [Jobcase](#) discuss who will be hiring, what skills will be important, and how the workplace of the future will change.

FC fastcompany.com

COVID-19 shut down the job fair as we know it. Here's how one school is reinventing it

Are virtual job fairs the future? [ArtCenter](#) gives the idea a go, but find there are still plenty of kinks to work out. Say tuned for more experiments in this space.

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The #MBW Podcast

Our Very Own #WDQI #MakingBetterWork Podcast Now Has 17 Episodes!

If you haven't subscribed, pull out your mobile device and do it now!

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Search for **Making Better Work** on Google Play (a quirk of the platform).

Again, we hope these new communication channels will bring your work further into the public domain so that kindred spirits in different parts of the public data ecosystem can find each other. It's a big job but somebody's got to do it. Why not us?

Information Wants to Be Shared

This is the 18th edition of *#MakingBetterWork*, the perpetual beta newsletter of the longitudinal workforce data community.

We'd love your continued help in making it great (and your generosity of spirit when we don't quite get there). We changed up the headers this month to make it easier to navigate. Let us know what you think!

Here's our focus (always subject to change) going forward:

- **COVID-19** (until future notice)
- **Impact** (Products, legislation, key policy decisions, and more – what difference is WDQI making in your state, community?)
- **Governance** (In the words of one of our subject matter experts, "It's everything.")
- **Ecosystem** (How do we better align public data efforts and work with nonprofit, foundation, university, and other partners more effectively to address critical workforce and education issues? How do we do this consistently, ethically, and responsibly?)
- **Themes that run through WDQI events and activities:**
 - Federal legislative mandates (WIOA – and evaluation, HEA, Perkins, etc.)
 - Trends in training: non-degree credentials, work-based learning, apprenticeship, technology and distance learning, dual-systems, stackable credentials, etc.)
 - Future of Work – using data to help policymakers, institutional leaders, and the rest of us navigate it
 - #DataViz – so more people can understand, interact with, and use the data and tools we're all creating.

In case you've received this from a friend or colleague and don't know how to find us, we've provided our contact information below.

Kristin Wolff (Editor-in-Chief): Kristin_Wolff@spra.com

Maureen Sarver (Chief WDQI TA Architect): Maureen_Sarver@spra.com

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Know someone who needs this newsletter? Forward it or send them here.