



June 5, 2020

We have important work to do, urgently.

- [Widely-known](#) and [well-documented](#) racial disparities in health, social, and economic outcomes have undermined community prosperity for decades, a trend accelerated by the [Great Recession](#) and the rise of the [platform economy](#).
- The Corona Virus [pandemic exposed](#) black and brown Americans to [additional risk](#) because people of color are overrepresented in insecure jobs subject to layoff, and also in "essential jobs" (often low-paying) where many continued to work during government-imposed shutdowns [at great risk](#) to themselves and their families.
- The death of [George Floyd](#) at the hands of law enforcement and subsequent [eruption of ongoing protests in communities across the country](#) have been clear reminders of what our data have been telling us – that the effects of systemic racism are profound and ongoing.

We can do more to eliminate racial inequity. The effective and ethical use of data is a critical step toward that end.

We know that many of you are working hard to make race, equity, and inclusion more central to the data work we do together and to our conversations about evidence-based policy and practice. We will collaborate with you on this mission in coming convenings, communications, and interviews. If you have specific requests now, don't hesitate to get in touch (Maureen_Sarver@spra.com, Kristin_Wolff@spra.com).

This Month: Fewer Resources, Deeper Content

May's MBW newsletter was packed. ([Here it is again](#) in case you didn't get to it.) This month we've included **five resources** that speak directly to the issues, challenges, and opportunities you've raised in recent weeks: **money**, **reopening & recovery**, and **learning in real-time**. Let us know what you think.

News for WDQI Colleagues and Web Convening Guests:

- Many thanks to the [Rhode Island team](#) and partner [RIPL](#) for sharing their experience as one of the first states to launch the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program ([PUA](#)) during our May 12, 2020 convening.

- We're looking forward to the **June 24, 2020, Round VI State Showcase** online convening. In addition to showing off their grant-supported products, we'll also be asking the Round VI teams to discuss real-time COVID crisis lessons important to all of us.
- We are inquiring about opportunities to host an **online convening with our SLDS partners** in lieu of the canceled STATS-DC and other data conferences this year. Stay tuned.
- Thanks to our DOL partners (hat-tip David Lipnicky) for sharing the new location of the **ETA #COVID19 response resources and FAQ's** and intel regarding the [UEI replacement of the D-U-N-S® number](#).
- We're pleased to add interviews with the **California** and **Colorado** teams to our podcast archive. If you are a Round VII grantee, we'll be scheduling with you soon as part of our **New Now** series.

A Word About Accessibility

"It's hard to apply for benefits on a cell phone." [Workforce agencies](#), [schools](#), colleges, libraries (and their [parking lots](#)), [small businesses](#), and [private citizens](#) are boosting wifi signals and sharing devices to help one another. The Digital Divide has taken on new urgency in 2020 as the internet has become a lifeline. Thank you for your work in making information accessible to date. Let's continue to raise the bar.

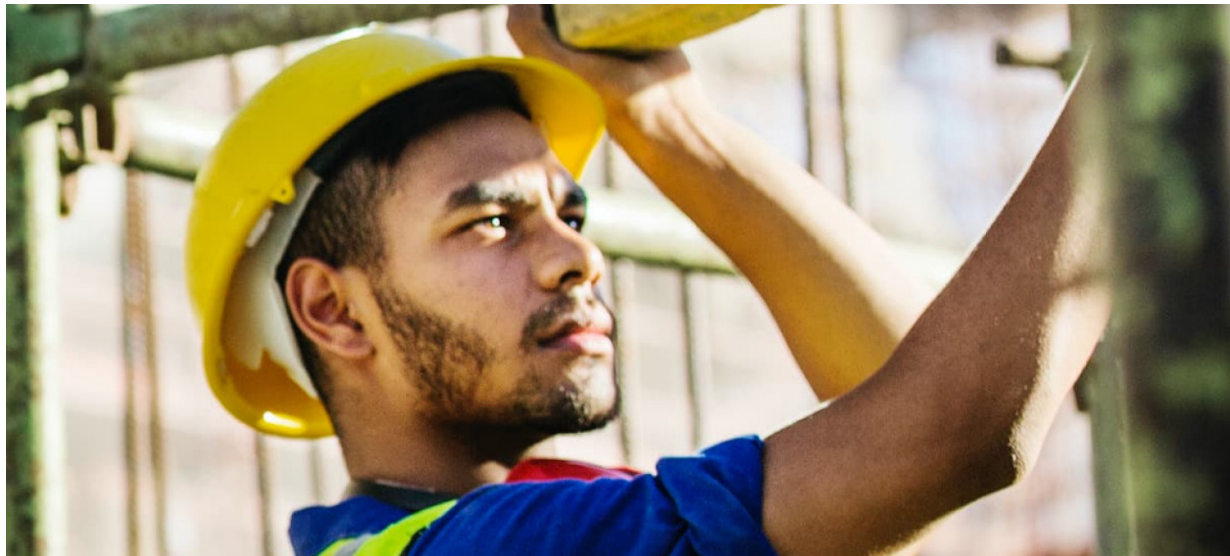
Take care of each other out there.



Kristin Wolff (@kristinwolff), Editor

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

Five Resources for the New Now



\$10M Inclusive Growth and Recovery Challenge

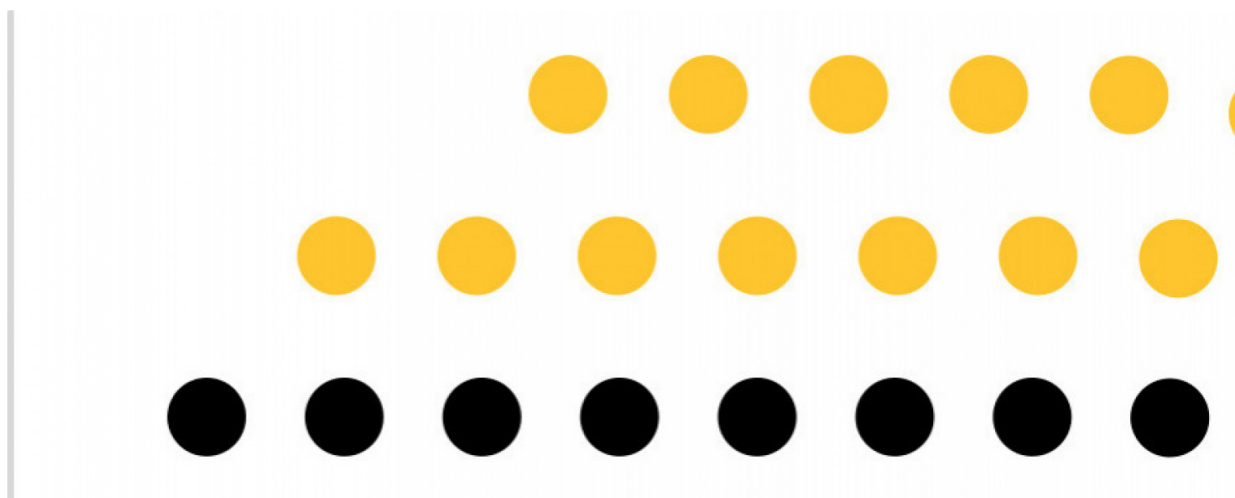
Data.org seeks proposals from anywhere in the world. **Jobs of the Future: Leave No Worker Behind** is one of three key topic areas. (Many of you will be keen on [the other topics, too](#)). If

you have an idea for using data and data science to help workers find security in precarious times, submit a **proposal by July 17, 2020**. Government agencies welcome!



Workrise: A Research-to-Action Network

Urban has its own funded research partnership call **Workrise** that seeks to develop and share actionable evidence on what works to shore up workers' economic security during the COVID-19 crisis and promote longer-term upward mobility. Up to \$2M to support research, pilots, a clearinghouse, and more. **Proposals due June 29, 2020.**



Mapping How Data Can Help Address COVID19

We've shared [GovLab](#) resources before because they are *so good*. Here's a resource-packed roadmap for collecting the right data now, in the midst of the COVID19 crisis, and using it to build back better, courtesy of Andrew J. Zahuranec and Stefaan G. Verhulst. The section on economic need applies directly to workforce data champions like you. This might just be the resource you need to help think through your approach to Data.org and Workrise proposals.



WORKSHOP REPORT

Policy Lessons from Catastrophic Events

Summary of Lessons from a February Convening of Smart People

No proposal bandwidth? Then learn from what you are doing right now. This guide should help. It's not about COVID-19. Instead, it's full of analog disasters. Still too much? Go right to David Slater's section on why we *don't* learn. Then do the opposite of what he describes.

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A Roadmap for Reopening America: How to Save Lives and Livelihoods (Webinar)

[Reopening America & the World Volume I](#) (Volume I, Volume II is coming soon) is Brookings at its best – evidence-based insights on a broad range of public policy issues. It's useful to see this content presented in a volume because it makes the interconnected nature of the challenges more obvious. Still, you are busy. So if you need brevity and a break from screens, don your headset, trainers, and mask, and play the [webinar version linked here](#) while you hike the neighborhood.

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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 17th 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.

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