

# Community Renewal Task Force



Co-Chair  
Governor Mike Parson  
Missouri



Co-Chair  
Governor Albert Bryan Jr.  
U.S. Virgin Islands

## ISSUE AREAS

- Agriculture
- Broadband
- Criminal Justice
- Education
- Nutrition
- Workforce

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- Governor Doug Ducey  
Arizona
- Governor Jared Polis  
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- Governor Greg Gianforte  
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- Governor Tony Evers

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## Laying Out a National Vision for Workforce Development

In July, Community Renewal Task Force Co-Chairs, U.S. Virgin Islands Governor Albert Bryan Jr. and Missouri Governor Mike Parson, led the National Governors Association (NGA) efforts to develop principles and recommendations for Congress to rethink workforce development laws and programs. This vision will be critical as Congress continues working to reauthorize the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act. The principles focus on reconceptualizing federal workforce programs to acknowledge the new realities presented by COVID-19 and the acceleration of new, innovative forms of work that require advanced skills. In addition, Governors encourage Congress to focus on upskilling and partnering with businesses to ensure workers receive the skills and supportive services and benefits to secure good jobs and support their families.

## Working to Create a Federal Task Force to Address Unemployment Insurance Fraud

In March, the Community Renewal Task Force and the National Association of State Workforce Agencies sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh urging the Biden Administration to establish a task force to address and prevent national and international fraud attacks on unemployment insurance systems. The Biden Administration listened. In May, at President Biden's direction, the U.S. Department of Justice announced a task force to address COVID-19 relief fraud with a focus on fraud in unemployment insurance programs.

## Addressing Lost Academic Time Through Summer Learning

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Education and the Council of Chief State School Officers, the National Governors Association launched the Summer Learning & Enrichment Collaborative. The Collaborative brings together state and local leaders working alongside stakeholders to design evidence-based summer learning programs that address the lost instructional, social and extracurricular time students have experienced due to the pandemic, especially underserved students and those disproportionately affected by COVID-19. In March, the Collaborative hosted a summer learning summit attended by officials from 46 states and three territories.

## Securing Broad Waiver Authority for Governors on Education Relief Requirements

When Congress required provisions for state Maintenance of Effort requirements in exchange for COVID education relief dollars, the National Governors Association worked with members to ensure broad waiver provisions that would afford states flexibility from the U.S. Secretary of Education for any reason. This flexibility is meant to help states and territories that would be penalized under the American Rescue Plan (and previous COVID-19 relief legislation) even if they refrained from cutting state education funds. In April, the U.S. Department of Education released guidance that provided clarity on this flexibility.

## Working with the Secretary of Education on American Rescue Plan Implementation and School Reopening

In March, Govs. Parson and Bryan, as Co-Chairs of the Community Renewal Task Force, met with U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona to discuss strategies and bipartisan collaboration to reopen schools across the country. They also discussed evidence-based uses for American Rescue Plan funds to ensure long-term success for the nation's schools.