



ABILENE CHAMBER

DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

Skimming the daily updates for your business so you don't have to.

EMPLOYERS WEIGH CHILDCARE CONCERNS AND ASSISTANCE AMID REOPENING

A [report](#) released Monday by the U.S. Chamber Foundation's Center for Education and Workforce revealed that 40% of employers are not confident that everyone in their workforce will fully return to work. Of the issues cited as reasons, childcare (79%) is nearly equivalent to concern for health and safety (81%).

The full report provides insight into how employers are thinking about childcare assistance, benefits, and accommodations during COVID-19, and is the second in a series of polls that will survey working parents and employers into the fall. Last week's [survey of working parents](#) found that 22% of working parents with children under the age of six were unsure whether they would return to their pre-COVID situation.

Key takeaways: Forty percent of employers have offered additional childcare assistance, benefits, or accommodations in response to the effects of COVID-19. Most employers (92%) believe they are aware of the childcare needs of their employees.

Many employers are preparing for additional support as they consider return to work scenarios. Currently, one in four are willing to increase their organization's investment in employee childcare needs, but more than half (51%) would be likely to offer additional childcare assistance if the government provided incentives such as tax benefits or subsidies.

Big Picture: Childcare is now a top-tier issue for everyone in the business community. Without this industry's survival and ability to safely care for the children of working parents, every other American industry will struggle to return to work.

Dig deeper: Last week the U.S. Chamber [sent a letter](#) urging Congress to quickly find a bipartisan path for funding childcare providers that includes:

- Issuing recovery grants directly for childcare providers to re-open.
- Establishing a robust, flexible stabilization fund for states and providers.
- Ensuring expeditious distribution of funds.
- Ensuring that funding includes adequate grants for licensed home-based childcare. These critical, very small businesses should not be overlooked.

– Cheryl A. Oldham, Vice President of Education Policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce & Senior Vice President of Education and Workforce, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

KTAB & KRBC TO BROADCAST SPECIAL ON BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROCEDURES

In an effort to ensure parents are prepared for the back-to-school season, the news division of KTAB and KRBC is proud to announce a community conversation to be aired this week.

Back to School, a Community Conversation will air on KTAB at 6 p.m., on Wednesday, Aug. 5 and on KRBC at 12 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 8. The special broadcast will also stream on BigCountryHomepage.com on Wednesday at 5 p.m.

The broadcast will be an in-depth conversation with Abilene and Big Country school officials on the plan to either keep kids safe in the classroom or efficiently learning at home.

The town hall will feature questions submitted to KTAB and KRBC on social media. Answering questions and concerns will be Abilene ISD Superintendent Dr. David Young, Wylie ISD Superintendent Joey Light, Jim Ned CISD Superintendent Dr. Glen Teal and Sweetwater ISD Superintendent Dr. Drew Howard.

[Learn more.](#)

U.S. ECONOMIC REBOUND UNEVEN AMID RESURGENT LOCAL COVID-19 OUTBREAKS

Americans sharply reduced their mobility in late March and early April, staying at home to avoid COVID-19 infection. As mobility and economic activity resumed in the latter half of April and into May, the renewed movement didn't appear to reflect local infection rates. That pattern changed the following month. Across states, a strong relationship seems to have developed between local COVID-19 cases and mobility. Mobility has declined in states experiencing a rising rate of new cases, while mobility has increased in states that saw a relatively high incidence earlier in the pandemic but an easing in recent weeks.

[Read more.](#)

CITY HOSTS NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES MEETINGS

The City of Abilene Office of Neighborhood Services hosts two Community Meetings to receive input for the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and the 2020-21 Action Plan. City staff will discuss community development needs, goals and objectives, neighborhood priorities and division accomplishments. Citizen participation is encouraged. The events will be held at G-V Daniels Recreation Center on Tuesday, August 11, at 10 am and 5:30 pm. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, face masks and social distancing protocols are required for the meetings. (source: KACU)

WHAT WE'RE READING

Pandemic not keeping new businesses from opening in Abilene

"Despite the pandemic slowing down some construction throughout the Key City, many new businesses are still planning on opening up."

[Read more.](#)

How are Craft Breweries Surviving?

The Atlantic talks to brewers in Minnesota and California about how they're enduring the pandemic.

[Read more.](#)

You don't want to miss these upcoming event for your business.

8/5 SBA/FAA VIRTUAL INDUSTRY DAY The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Dallas/Fort Worth District Office teams up with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to bring to the small business community the first SBA/FAA Virtual Industry Day, August 5th, 2020 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. [Learn more.](#)

8/5 HUMANITIES TEXAS GRANTS AND EXHIBITIONS hold a free webinar on grants and exhibitions for Texas cultural and educational organizations. Learn about funding opportunities, traveling exhibitions, and other resources provided by Humanities Texas. Staff will make brief presentations and then be available for questions and discussion. [Register here.](#)

8/5 BUSINESS STRATEGIES FOR AN EVOLVING FUTURE COVID-19 has impacted how we conduct business in many ways. That is why the Governor's Small Business Team will host another webinar focused on helping small businesses develop adaptive strategies for an evolving future. This webinar will help guide business owners and entrepreneurs in implementing solutions, such as e-commerce and online strategies, to maximize business resiliency during uncertain times. [Register here.](#)

8/11 TEXAS ALLIANCE OF ENERGY PRODUCERS SUMMER CONFERENCE join this FREE webinar on Tuesday, August 11 at 2:00 pm to hear from distinguished energy professionals on issues important to you and your company. [Register here.](#)

8/11 HOW TO START A SMALL BUSINESS WEBINAR Business Counselor, Manzel McGhee will overview what steps and procedures should be taken to start a small business including risks, opportunities and rewards. [Register here.](#)

8/13 GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING VIRTUAL LUNCHEON PANEL DISCUSSION discussion about government contracting for Women-Owned Small Businesses. [Learn more.](#)

MORE FROM THE CHAMBER:

- [Abilene Chamber CEO Selected for Economic Recovery Fellowship](#)
- [Your Chamber Commitment for Fall Events](#)
- [Free Mask Poster for Chamber Members](#)
- [Abilene Chamber Now Seeking Nominations for Citizen of the Year](#)
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