

COVID-19 Response

Workforce Training & Economic Recovery

Jacque Treaster & Joe Thiel

May 20, 2020

AN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER ARE UNEMPLOYED

- **60,000+** Montanans have filed for unemployment
- **27%** of Montanans have already or expect soon to be laid off or furloughed due to coronavirus¹

THIS ELEVATED UNEMPLOYMENT COULD PERSIST

- The Congressional Budget Office forecasts nationwide unemployment to remain above 10% well into 2021

- **Even short-term unemployment can have long run effects on workers earnings and employability**
- **These effects are most acute for low-income families and those without a college degree**
- **With support, unemployed adults can use this time to gain skills that will help them reenter the workforce**

STRATEGY #1

Collaborate to offer supports that help unemployed adults enter and succeed in higher education

STRATEGY #2

Work with industry to identify and deploy credentials that are suited to the needs of adult learners and that lead to good jobs

STRATEGY #3

Invest in academic collaborations and online learning, so that the right credentials are widely available and efficiently delivered