



State of California

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## Strategies to Recover from the Pandemic

The Little Hoover Commission has released three reports examining the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on California. The Commission finds that bold leadership from state government is needed to help foster an equitable recovery and address the pandemic's disparate impacts.

### [First Steps toward Recovery: Saving Small Businesses](#)

California's small businesses have been devastated by the pandemic, especially those in marginalized communities. To put small businesses on the road to recovery, [we recommend](#) that state government:

- Develop a strategy to expand and maximize participation in the California Rebuilding Fund and, based on initial results, make it permanent.
- Gather data to determine whether the Rebuilding Fund is reaching underserved communities.
- Raise awareness of Community Development Financial Institutions, especially among investors.
- Partner with the technology sector to make informational resources more accessible.

### [First Steps toward Recovery: Job Training and Reskilling](#)

The pandemic has had a destructive and unequal impact on California's workforce. To address the jobs crisis and provide workers with pathways to employment and to good jobs, [we recommend](#) the state:

- Develop a worker training plan that includes regional and statewide targets and is grounded in equity, coordination, and community outreach.
- Increase funding for the community college Strong Workforce Program and direct this additional funding towards creating and supporting training intermediaries.
- Incentivize innovative regional training programs through "race-to-the-top" grant competitions.
- Gather job skills data and provide to training providers, workforce groups, and their partners.
- Establish a working group of senior agency representatives to facilitate interagency collaboration in providing reskilling opportunities to workers impacted by COVID-19.

### [COVID-19 and Children's Mental Health: Addressing the Impact](#)

The pandemic has exacerbated an already worsening crisis in children's mental health. To seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve children's mental health care, [we recommend](#) California:

- Establish state leadership to create clear plans for coordination and oversight.
- Set shared outcome goals and support accountability through competitive funding.
- Increase technical assistance to counties, health plans, and other mental health providers.
- Encourage schools to develop comprehensive approaches to student mental well-being.
- Mitigate risks associated with developing the behavioral health services virtual platform.

Once implemented, these recommendations will help California better support those impacted by the pandemic.

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