

REALTIME FILE

nTIDE LUNCH & LEARN WEBCAST

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>> Hello, and welcome everybody to the National Trends in Disability Employment.

>> Or nTIDE, lunch and learn series.

Just a few housekeeping items before we begin.

>> This webinar is being recorded.

>> We will post an archive of each webinar each month on our website at www.researchondisability.org/nTIDE.

>> This site will also provide copies of the presentations, the speakers bios', full transcripts and other valuable resources.

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>> Speakers will review these questions and provide answers during the last section of the webinar.

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>> If you have any questions following this recording, please contact us at disability.statistics@unh.edu.

>> Or toll free at (866) 538-9521 for more information.

Thanks for joining us, and enjoy today's webinar.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Hi, everybody. This is Andrew Houtenville from the University of New Hampshire bringing you an update on the COVID figures.

Let me run through these things -- sorry.

The lunch and learn is -- let me pause for a second and just

make a note that we currently have zero attendees. Is there a reason for that? Did we not open it up? Does anybody know?

>> We'll look into it now.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: What I'll do is restart the slides, because we do record, and we are on Facebook live. I'm just going to stay here on this first slide and if there's some technical reason we have zero attendees, then I'll do it for recording sake eventually.

But let's give it a few minutes, does that make sense everybody?

>> Sure. We have told anybody who's contacted us via email that if they can't access, to tune into our Facebook live stream, just so far, as an FYI. If we don't resolve this, we have folks there.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Have we received any?

>> We've received a handful.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Five people on Facebook live.

>> If you're tuned in on Facebook, please feel free to submit questions via chat and we'll relay them to our panelists live to respond to.

CART, would you let us know when you're online?

>> THE CAPTIONER: I'm online now.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: The captioner is there, okay. Great. Thank you, captioner.

We'll give it a couple more minutes.

Now I'm getting sunshine on my face, so now I look like I'm in prison. We so rarely get sunshine. See if I can fix my shades.

This is my dog Hazel, she's already at my feet when I do these.

I'm going to go ahead and get started. We'll restart, so at some point when we do the recording we can start at this point.

I'm going to get started in three, two, one.

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>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: This is Andrew Houtenville. These are the November numbers for the COVID update. I'm joined by John O'Neill from the Kessler Foundation and Denise Rozell.

So this is a joint effort of those three organizations, the University of New Hampshire, Kessler Foundation and AUCD. This is a special episode of the typical nTIDE lunch and learn where we're talking about the pandemic, we're also using a slightly different data source. We're using the public use micro data files where we can look at the individuals and get more detail than is provided on the typical bureau of labor statistics that we normally use.

We'll do some introductions and the updated numbers and then go to Q and A.

As was mentioned earlier, if you're on Facebook live, you can submit your questions there and we'll have someone relay them to us.

So my name is Andrew Houtenville. Here come the numbers.

So again I'm going to show some of the things I've shown in the past. We have this slow recovery from the great recession. Then COVID hits and then we have some kind of good news after that.

So let's look at the employment to population ratio. So this is the percentage of people who are employed, ages 16 to 64. And this is going to be the trend for people and without disabilities together.

All right. So people with disabilities are on the bottom line, the green line. People without disabilities are on the top line. You can see the great recession hitting in 2008 and 2009. You see a slow progression for people with disabilities all the way down to say 2014 and then a slow climb up afterwards, so this is just a delayed response in terms of recovery of people with disabilities from the great recession.

What you don't notice and it's kind of hard to see is that the gap between -- the gap between people with and without disabilities actually started to narrow a little bit during 2016 and 17. It's tapered off a little bit more recently, but this increase was coinciding with full employment when the first months of full employment were occurring.

And it suggests that people with disabilities were reengaging into the labor market. And actually closing the gap a little bit.

Of course the gap is still pretty substantial, regardless of what month or year we look at.

So here's the impact of COVID. We see a large decline of people with and without disabilities. Percentage-wise quite a big drop for people without disabilities.

People with disabilities, we see that the decline in April from COVID really doesn't actually go to the bottom of the great recession, you know. Compare that to people without disabilities, where it's well below the great recession bottom.

Let's go to the next one.

So May, May we start seeing a rebounding as the economy starts to reopen in various parts of the country, as firms start getting better at putting up personal protective equipment and plexiglass and places start opening back up.

In June we see another rise for people without -- with and without disabilities, a little bit slower increase for people with disabilities.

I'm going to click through the months. July we see people with disabilities start to slow down in terms of the recovery. People with disabilities also slowed down, although they showed an improvement.

Again modest gains for both, people with and without disabilities. In September, slowing down for people with disabilities, this is probably the beginning of the hit of the second bump that hit the southern tier of the country.

October, really what we starting to see is ratcheting around for people with disabilities. You know, a slight increase over time, but not a ton of increase.

You know, people with disabilities are still pretty far away from their March and April -- this was February and March. People with disabilities are still kind of sitting around what they were two years ago, one, two, three years ago.

Again November, these are the new numbers. These are the latest numbers put out by the bureau of labor statistics, and this shows a decline for people with disabilities and without disabilities. So kind of a stasis, and this might be the impact of the latest -- the latest spikes that are hitting across the country.

These numbers are for November and recall, if you have been on the previous call, that they have -- if you've been on the previous calls, these numbers are basically for the second week of November. It's actually the November -- the survey reference week for employment is the month that has the 12th of the month in it, right? So it's usually the second week.

So this is pre -- these numbers are basically pre-Thanksgiving, all right? And so we see a real slowing down.

Now, this will actually have some effect in the numbers that we'll present next.

So what we want to do, that's comparison of last November. So this shows you we're about two percentage points below for people with disabilities. For people without disabilities, about five percent -- four percentage points below the previous November.

So we want to look at employment status. This is a standard way that labor economists split up the employment status. We look at employed, unemployed, and not in the labor force. Just by way of definition, employed is if you're working. It's not necessarily part-time or full time, it's any employment.

For unemployment, you can be on temporary layoff, basically furlough, or you could be on actively looking for work in the last

four weeks.

Not in the labor force is that you're not on furlough. You're not expecting to be called back, and you're not actively looking for work in the last four weeks.

So just to give you a sense, this is people without disabilities. About 74.8 percent. This is 2009 monthly average, 74.8 percent were employed. 2.8 percent were unemployed, and 22.5 percent were not in the labor force.

So this is, you know, the good times of 2019, where we had really low -- what some people considered full employment, that the 2.8 percent are basically in transition between jobs.

So now we want to click in the pandemic. So we see the big increase, the big increase in unemployment, pretty substantial increase in non-labor force participation in April.

And then as we go on with this month into November, we see this percentage that are unemployed go down, down, down, down, down, down. And we'll talk about it a little bit more about who they are and what's happening to that number.

We basically see a recovery from that big April decline.

For people with disabilities, and we'll put in their chart, for people with disabilities, we see, you know, 2.7 in -- monthly average for 2018, and then we see the big jump for COVID. May kind of stays the same, but then we see a slow decline in the percentage employed until this November.

So let's take a look at this number, this, you know and compare this. We're basically going up half a percentage point, right? For people without disabilities, it actually went down.

So this suggests that -- this suggests that, you know, this may be the signs that people with disabilities are being affected by the recent spikes more quickly than people without disabilities. And so this is a -- this was kind of disappointing and shocking, you know?

It suggests that people with disabilities, they may be in occupations that are likely to be in shutdown. It also suggests one other way that this could go up is that people with disabilities are jumping into the labor market. So people who were out of the labor force are starting to look for work.

It could be an increase in furloughs, and so that's what we're going to look at next. What percent is this 4.5 percentage points is -- this 4.5 percentage points is temporary layoff or people actively looking for work.

All right. So let's take a look at the unemployed. These are the November numbers for people without disabilities. This is the sheer number of people who are estimated to be unemployed, so either furloughed or actively looking for work.

And we see that this went down by 500,000 between October and November.

For people with disabilities, this number went up, almost a

hundred thousand from 593,000 to 680,000. So that's not an inconsequential jump. I mean that's back to August numbers. And so, you know, this is something of concern. Just one thing to note, these are not seasonally adjusted.

Seasonal adjustment is -- well, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has yet to provide seasonal estimates, seasonally adjusted estimates for people with disabilities. It's only -- it hasn't been quite enough years since 2008 to do a seasonal adjustment for that time series. We've done some preliminary work in that area. So that's why we put the 2019 numbers and in the regular nTIDE, we compare it to this time last year.

So let's put in the percentage that are on -- we can break this down by the percentage who are actively looking for work, or on temporary layoff. All right?

The way they code it in the data, we can't see people who are doing both, because certainly somebody that's on temporary layoff may be actively looking for another job.

But if you're on temporary layoff, you know, we don't -- they don't allow us to see whether you're looking for work.

But the vice versa is not true. If you're actively looking for work, we know that you're not on temporary layoff.

And so what you can see is this massive jump in April to almost 80 percent on temporary layoff. The past peak of this was 1973, where in the entire economy, 25 people -- 25 percent of the workforce was on temporary layoff. That's back in the 70s and when plants -- factories would shut down for retooling and with the energy crisis, a lot of factories shut down temporarily.

So this is triple what we've seen in the past, so unprecedented.

We see this slow decline in the percentage of the proportion of people who are on temporary layoff, to back in November, it's about one-quarter of the unemployed are on temporary layoff, meaning they're expected to be called back at some point. They're still in contact with their employer, and they're not -- and they're expected to (indiscernible).

About three out of four are actively looking for work.

But again the percentage -- the sheer number went down, and, you know, the number furloughed. And this is kind of what we were worried about, that the longer this goes on, the more it goes from temporary furlough to permanent termination and people looking for work.

Let's put in the number for people with disabilities. So with people with disabilities, again we see this huge jump, not quite as big a jump as people without disabilities in terms of both the percentage that are employed and the percentage within that percentage. Sorry. That are on furlough but still, you know, going from 9 percent on furlough to 79 percent on furlough -- the way they ask it in the survey is temporary layoff.

So this decline, we see this decline in the overall employment

numbers until this past month. We see a decline in the percentage who are on temporary layoff, steady decline, to 21 percent. And then we see this 23 percentage point jump.

And so this is a sign that people with disabilities, for whatever reason, it's hard to tell exactly why, are kind of leading the way in terms of temporary layoff in the economy. And some people are coming back into the labor force. Some people are being terminated permanently, but this is a sign that when they were talking early on about what is it, the second peak?

I'm forgetting the terminology. The second spike in COVID and people are thinking this is the third spike. Nationally this is -- since it's so regional and state to state differences, it's hard to tell what's a spike and what's not a spike. For one state it might not be a spike, for another state -- nevertheless, COVID cases and COVID cases, COVID hospitalizations are increasing. We're starting to see various states shut down.

Certain parts, certain industries, certain employment types of jobs, and so again this might be a sign for the coming year, and December this year and the coming year that we'll have to keep track of. You know, until we get widespread distribution of the vaccine, I think the economy is still going to take some hits.

That said, I think that both governments and employers and individuals have gotten -- have improved the way we've responded to, you know -- responded to the pandemic, such that people can work more safely. I'm not saying that's across the board. I'm just saying in general.

The big jump, the big fall in April was really, I think it's still going to be unprecedented, because remember we were -- we didn't have masks. We didn't have gloves, was running out, sanitizer was running out, toilet paper was running out. April was a national event. I don't think we'll see that again because I think we've gotten better at being more targeted.

Whether that's the best approach epidemiological, I'm not sure. But nevertheless, I think this is a sign of the future, not great news.

This is not great news, I'm putting quotes around some, around good. We look at the labor force participation rate, so this is the percentage who are working, actively looking for work, or on temporary layoff among the population ages 16 to 64 and again we see a big gap.

We see the trends that are consistent with the great recession. We see an improvement in 2016 and 18. Basically this is the same percentage. We're just adding in the percentage who are temporary layoff or are looking for work.

And then we see the COVID response. I'm just going to put them all in at once. We see people without disabilities really take a fall for labor force participation. It starts to rise over time. But then peter out, you know, really kind of just, you know, stop.

Here we see the labor force participation rate kind of hold steady for people with disabilities.

For me, you know, in a trend fashion, for me this has always been relatively good news because a big fear was that people with disabilities would leave the labor force permanently, and, you know, stay out of the labor force permanently.

One of the big concepts in economics is something called scarring. The further you are, the longer and longer you are out of the labor force, the more likely it is that you're not going to return to the labor force.

And so, you know, from this view in November, we're really at the same level we were before the pandemic. That's a good thing. Of course I'd love to see it rise, but the fact that people are sticking with it as a population, some people may be leaving and some people may be reentering, so it's not always -- we're not following the same people.

But for me this is actually a good thing, and something that I continue to be concerned about as the pandemic extends, as shutdowns start, as shutdowns start anew, you know, that people will leave the labor market permanently.

All right. So I'm going to turn it over to John and Denise. We have welcomed back to the people who are on Zoom. People on Facebook, you can always stay there. We'll still relay questions from Facebook.

So you can use question and answer, but I'm going to turn it over to John and Denise for comments.

>> JOHN O'NEILL: Yeah. I just have a couple of comments as I've done in the past, I've stayed in touch with my supported work program in New York City that I'm very familiar with, and consistent with the finding that there's a jump in temporary layoffs among people with disabilities, this supported work program has noticed that particularly amongst the restaurant sector.

We -- in New York City we opened up the restaurants to indoor dining and outdoor dining as well. But very recently, and I think this was before the data was collected in the second week in November, there were a number of -- the restaurants were being closed to indoor dining.

And a number of individuals in this supported work program who were called back to work as the restaurants opened were being once again put on temporary layoff as the spike began to happen in New York City, and the restaurants -- indoor dining was closed or restricted.

There also are some other interesting findings, not necessarily related to the -- to our COVID report, but the -- one thing that they were observing the people at this supported work program was that particularly amongst -- well, amongst the retail sector, many people that they were serving were the first to be called back, which is interesting.

And the staff are ascribing that to longevity in the sense that they had been working at these retail sites for quite a while, and because of that, because of their folks with disabilities often being more reliable and staying in positions for longer periods of time, they were some of the first to be called back at these retail sites.

Another little factor that -- or another approach that state organizations, particularly our developmental disability organization in New York State, as I understand it, is putting into place a back to work initiative.

Actually incentivizing, attempting to incentivize employers to take individuals with disabilities back to work if they have been put on layoff by providing or by agreeing to provide up to 20 hours of salary if employers take individuals back.

I thought that was sort of a creative effort on the part of our developmental disability agency in New York, New York State, and it's being rolled out in New York City as well.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: We talked about this earlier this morning, John. Would that be -- you know, I viewed it as kind of a wage subsidy at first. Now I'm thinking almost like a signing bonus or a resigning bonus.

>> JOHN O'NEILL: Right. That's interesting.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: It's a wage subsidy signing bonus, you know. It's probably short term, right?

>> JOHN O'NEILL: Right.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: So it's not a long term wage subsidy.

>> JOHN O'NEILL: Right.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: But a signing bonus. Firms might be willing to take a one time check, you know?

>> JOHN O'NEILL: Right.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: As opposed to setting up a longer sustained kind of contractual subsidy.

>> JOHN O'NEILL: And what's important in this situation I think is the organization is able to -- the supported work program, the staff are able to manage that, that subsidy for the employer.

The employer doesn't have to do a lot or any work at all to obtain the subsidy. I think that may not be -- may be more difficult to use it if there's not an organization involved --

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Yeah.

>> JOHN O'NEILL: -- in someone returning to work.

Not much else has changed. People coming off of temporary layoff have slowed down. And in this particular organization, and there are more -- there are more services being provided, job -- career development and all kinds of efforts are being paid for by the state, all done remotely, but these particular kinds of activities are being used quite a bit more than they were in the past to serve individuals who are laid off or looking for work.

Also there's more time and effort being spent on maintaining

relationships with employers. Sort of doing the demand side work that's going to be necessary to have people return to work.

Just keeping employers engaged and informed and that kind of effort.

I think that's about it from me today.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Thank you, John. Denise, any comments or thoughts?

>> DENISE ROZELL: Yeah. Interestingly enough, I usually bring you a quick update of what's going on in Washington, and I will say that even since I had the conversation with Andrew and John right before this call started, things are changing.

So let me give you a quick update on what's going on. I'm sure you're reading the news. The continuing resolution is supposed to expire at midnight tonight. That is the continuing resolution that keeps the government going. So if it expires, the government shuts down.

Of course my dogs start barking now.

So interestingly enough, the new reporting in the last half-hour is that that continuing resolution may be allowed to expire, in which case the government would shut down.

They are -- and there are rumors flowing everywhere here so let me start by saying that.

If it does, the idea is it will only shut down for the weekend, because what they are trying to do is -- there are some holdups -- there are two things going on here.

One is the continuing resolution and the regular funding of the government.

The other is a COVID relief package.

They are trying to get both of those two things done at once, and the COVID relief package is apparently taking some hits right now.

So the thought is if they allow the government to shut down for a couple of days, perhaps that pressure will move the relief package. That's what the rumors are, and it's being reported in the Post so within the last hour.

Let me talk for a minute about the relief package. The budget, the omnibus, whatever happens on budgets is likely to be flat funding. It's not likely to be anything -- the cuts or anything -- big cuts or anything unusual. So that part set aside.

The relief package, what they did this week was split the relief package they were talking about into two portions. One portion is not going to pass at all, it looks like.

That's the portion with state relief. State and local relief. And liability waivers. That piece of it is the controversial piece, and it's likely what's going to happen is they're just going to let that fail at this point.

However, there is a piece they are trying to get passed, and for the most part, it's been bipartisan bicameral, until they ran into

a couple of hiccups this morning.

A couple of things to know about that.

Last we heard at least, there is 1.8 billion dollars for home and community-based services in the bill that they're looking to pass.

Now, no promises there.

And secondly it isn't -- I was checking that. It is not in the form of an F map increase.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: What does that mean?

>> DENISE ROZELL: So originally -- it's in the form of a big chunk of money. So a big bucket of money that they'll have to divide out.

It was, they were looking at doing it as an increase in the federal Medicaid matching rates. They can't do that because there's no state and local funding, and -- relief, and that would have to be in the state and local funding piece.

So it will be a big pot of money. 1.8 billion for the community-based services. How they divide that up I do not know at this point.

But it's money for HCS. Good thing. Very good thing.

And they seem --

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Was that under COVID relief?

>> DENISE ROZELL: Yeah wow.

>> DENISE ROZELL: It's in the COVID relief package.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: You said billion, like what? But the package itself could be almost a trillion.

>> DENISE ROZELL: The package itself is 900 billion, that's why.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Let's just call that a trillion.

>> DENISE ROZELL: The Republicans want to make sure they keep it under a trillion. That's part of the goal here.

So you've seen numbers floating around all week at 900 billion, and you know, 916 billion and 950 billion. The point is it needs to be under a trillion. The number they're looking at is 908 billion.

There's 1.2 billion for home and community-based service. That would include stimulus payments directly to people of \$600, people under a certain income level. It's like what we saw earlier with the \$1200. It would be \$600, so it's not as big but it's still in there.

So and I think they will get there. I'm feeling positively, even if it shuts down over the weekend I'm feeling positively that they're going to figure this out and get there, because there is such pressure on them to pass a COVID relief package and to get at minimum a continuing resolution that tosses the budget down the road.

So I'm feeling good. Having said that, the newest rumors are they will shut down for the weekend.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: And it will be non-essential?

>> DENISE ROZELL: Yeah. It would be exactly the way they shut down the government when they shut down the government and they're thinking it would be for the weekend. Who knows what happens Monday morning, but the rumors flying right now is it would be for the weekend.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Okay.

>> DENISE ROZELL: So that's what I've got this morning. And I think it is good news. I really do. We were talking this morning about how my definition of good news is lowered in the last year, and it has.

But this gets some money out to people in areas where we need it right now in COVID relief. So from that point of view, this is good, and they will figure out the funding of the government before they go home at Christmas. They just will. Whether it'll be after this weekend or Monday or Tuesday, I don't know. But they truly cannot afford to go home without that.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Yeah.

One question I have for you that came up in the last nTIDE, I believe, I'm not sure, it goes by quick but someone asked about COVID testing.

Now, this isn't about unemployment. But the COVID testing and its applicability for people with conditions, with preexisting conditions and, you know, they talked about the allergy issue.

Do we have a sense of how generalizable it is for people with various specific disabilities?

>> DENISE ROZELL: Do you mean testing or vaccines?

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Vaccine --

>> DENISE ROZELL: Testing. Vaccine testing is what you're talking about.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Vaccine testing, right.

>> DENISE ROZELL: My understanding, and I can get more information about this before the next nTIDE if you want. My understanding is that they are looking -- there has been some -- they have looked at that in some conditions.

We are trying to tease that out. I just had this conversation yesterday with the folks at AUCD who are really tracking this more closely, and it is my understanding they are looking at what they can pull out for particular conditions.

But having said that, we all know that labels of those conditions are not necessarily applied the same to people with disabilities. I guess what I'm saying is that they're looking at, you know, people with diabetes or if they're looking at people with lung conditions.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Right.

>> DENISE ROZELL: You know, a person with a lung condition defined as XYZ, and a person with a lung condition with other disabilities may not be defined the same way.

So that's part of the conversation that we're trying to say to people in your states, make sure you're raising this, as your states are figuring out their vaccine plans.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Yeah.

>> DENISE ROZELL: And that's a huge issue.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: My recommendation --

>> DENISE ROZELL: Vaccine plans are a huge issue.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: My recommendation to individuals is make sure that the ICD 9 and 10 codes are up-to-date in your medical files.

>> DENISE ROZELL: And that's a good recommendation.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: So that decisions can be made in terms of getting early vaccine more readily.

>> DENISE ROZELL: And continue to have those conversations and continue to track what the priorities are, because they are changing regularly.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Yeah.

>> DENISE ROZELL: What the priorities within your state, and what the -- even what the sub priorities are, because the more you talk to people in your state about this, and I said this on the last nTIDE, AUCD has a document on this that we put out on barriers to vaccines and questions about vaccines and how to find your state plan for vaccines and how to influence that.

If I can pull it up quickly, I'll try to put a link in the chat, it's on the AUCD side.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Yeah, it's trying to figure out your spot in the queue, and I have family members with secondary conditions that are of concern, and, you know, I'm hoping that our insurance company will be on top of it because you think they would have a vested interest in making sure that people with the most needs get the vaccine quickly.

>> DENISE ROZELL: There's a question in the chat, Andrew, and I'm going to need to double-check. In the stimulus payments in the bill they're looking at, does it also include extensions to the unemployment benefits beyond 12/26?

I want to say yes, but let me double-check that real quick.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: So I've been trying to check down, before we get distracted, whether it's -- whether -- so early on, you can get unemployment benefits, even if you were potentially recalled to work but had a condition that made you susceptible or at risk.

That you could use that reason for not reentering. I wonder if that kind of change in policy is still there.

Some of our friends from ODEP who are on the call, maybe they have some answers they can type it in.

>> DENISE ROZELL: Yeah, if they have an answer. I also want to check something.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Answer up.

>> DENISE ROZELL: What's the question?

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: So, yeah, so actually, I would recommend people, if we can't find the answer, number one, contact us. Right now it's an economist attendee that's asking, but email us. The emails are, you know -- send us your feedback. We'll -- contact us and we'll try to get more specific answers.

If I was looking for any kind of U.S. policy, I would go to ODEP for labor policy.

Let me make a plug to the ODEP folks. Why people with disabilities seem to be leading this current surge or current economic impact, ODEP is doing work on the degree to which people with disabilities are in essential work, and jobs that are, you know, if they're not in essential work, then they might be in jobs that are potentially in danger of furlough.

The degree to which people are in jobs that can be done from home. If people aren't in jobs that can be done at home, they're more at risk of furlough or job loss when the economy is ratcheted back due to the pandemic.

So be on the lookout for their publication on that.

We have another Q and A?

Here it comes.

Chris McClarren at ODEP stepped away. Denise, you're answering the question or trying to look for it.

>> DENISE ROZELL: Chris, I started to type it and then I hit the wrong button. I have an answer.

Yes, whoever was asking the question about extension of unemployment insurance, yes, it's extended through February -- hm, my note says till February, so I'm not sure if that means through February or -- through February? Or to February. But it is extended at least portion of time. So that's the answer.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Good to know.

Yeah.

>> DENISE ROZELL: And for Chris, we were trying to figure out whether the unemployment -- the unemployment insurance was extended beyond 12/26. That's what we were trying to figure out.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Yeah. So it looks like the bill has something to extend it.

Do you know if it's got something similar to the paycheck protection act in it? Or paycheck protection program? Because I've often seen -- you know, I think that -- I don't know how those people in those programs would respond to the current population survey.

But it's quite possible that they would say they're continuing to work, because they're being paid by their employer, and probably trying to do some degree of work.

And that may have kept the unemployment and the furlough numbers low.

>> DENISE ROZELL: So yes, there is a PPP -- a continuation of

PPP, and I got the answer. It is through February. Nothing's final. Nothing I'm telling you right now, keep in mind, is final.

But what we think is in it is unemployment insurance payments through February.

And yes to PPP.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Very good.

Okay. Cool. Well, thank you very much. Thank you, Chris, for chiming in. Sorry to put you on the spot when you were away from your desk. I was afraid of that. But got to keep you guys on your toes, since you might not have a job over the weekend because of the federal government shutdown potentially.

It's amazing how different the news is, you know, when things like the shutdown is --

>> DENISE ROZELL: Yeah.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: You know, gosh. You know, it's quite a news year.

Well, I'm going to end here. I'm going to say thank you to everybody. Thank you John and Denise. Thank you to everyone, Chris, everybody who chimed in and asked questions.

One last question, Denise. Any movement to push for increasing SSDI or SSI payments?

>> DENISE ROZELL: Nicole, I love the fact that you're always so optimistic.

Not that I know of, but nice try. Yes, that's another important one but nice try.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: It would be a relatively straightforward mechanism to address that.

>> DENISE ROZELL: It would.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: A very widespread large program, you know. That's an interesting idea.

You know, Denise, this is a bit of an aside, but wasn't there something recently published with regard to disability determination in the Federal Register? Was it a call for comments around changes?

>> DENISE ROZELL: It was, I believe, and it was -- I talked about that on one of the last couple of nTIDEs. Yes. It's looking for some comments on -- yeah, on disability determinations.

I do not remember the dates. I just don't have it with me, but it was one of the last couple of nTIDEs, if you go back in my slides.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Just to put that on people's radar. That's big news that gets overwhelmed by the current pandemic.

All right. I'm going to end the call now.

Thank you everybody -- oh, boy, there's seven more questions.

>> DENISE ROZELL: You're good.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Nicole, exactly. SSI would be a great way to, you know, boosting SSI temporarily would be a great way to get more resources to families in need. Families of people with

disabilities and people with disabilities maybe living alone.

It's a good -- Social Security knows how to cut checks, if we give them the money.

>> DENISE ROZELL: Right.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: You know?

All right, I'm going to end, guys. Sorry, everybody. If you're asking questions.

>> DENISE ROZELL: That's good.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Anyway, all right, thanks, everybody.

Bye-bye.

>> DENISE ROZELL: Thanks, everybody.

(End of event.)

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