



COVID-19 reinforces urgency to address the health care workforce shortage

by Hedy Nam and Ariana Oliva

For an industry already affected by a shortage of skilled health professionals, the COVID-19 pandemic has further strained the health care industry's ability to respond to the rapidly increasing demand for health services. Hospitals and health care facilities across the region urgently need additional health care professionals (including Registered Nurses) and non-clinical staff to serve the community during this pandemic. The L.A. Compact's Health Sector Collaborative (HSC) has been convening partners across industry, education and training, and non-profits for over a decade to address the workforce shortages in the industry. Since mid-March, HSC partners have been leveraging existing relationships to address emerging and immediate workforce needs while also thinking about how this public health crisis will impact the future health care workforce pipeline.

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Partner Responses to COVID-19



L.A. City Mayor Eric Garcetti is helping Angelenos find jobs

Mayor Eric Garcetti's [Job Portal](#) is now live, providing Angelenos opportunities to apply for work. The City of Los Angeles has established a [Small Business Emergency Microloan Program](#) to provide 0 percent interest loans of \$5-\$20k for up to a year and has also set up a [fund](#) to support the City's response to COVID-19.



THE GREATER LA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Greater LA Education Foundation launches COVID-19 education response fund

The Greater LA Education Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), has launched the [COVID-19 Education Response Fund](#). The fund will support the urgent needs of students, families and local school districts, such as securing basic needs, providing devices for distance learning, supporting the delivery of mental health services, and training teachers in online instruction.

University of La Verne

The University of La Verne is making their admissions process easier for students

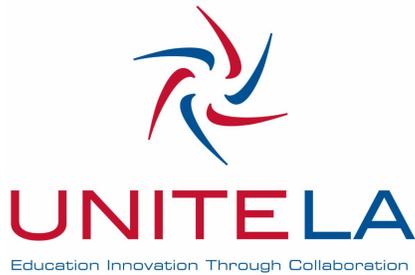
They are maintaining a [list of resources](#) and are engaged in active support for all students, including offering laptops and wifi hotspots available for check-out to those University of La Verne students who don't have technology at home. [Read more!](#)



L.A. Community College District provides Chromebooks and food vouchers to needy students

LACCD has partnered with [Human-I-T](#) to procure refurbished Chromebooks for all L.A. College Promise Students with the support of the Mayor's office. The District's foundation has purchased an additional 30,000 refurbished Chromebooks at \$90 each and is still fundraising for them. 95 percent of classes, including CTE instruction, will be transitioning online starting March 30. The District will also be distributing food vouchers to needy students courtesy of a second \$150,000 donation from Ralphs/Kroger.

Many of our partners are helping their communities cope with challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. We've compiled a [list of these actions](#) across the early childhood, k-12, higher education, workforce and social service sectors. Help us add to this list by sending your organization's response to lacompact@unitela.com.



If you haven't heard yet, UNITE-LA is now an independent organization!

We are pleased to share with you some exciting news about UNITE-LA that will allow the organization to expand our reach and ensure more under-served youth have an opportunity to participate in the region's dynamic, 21st century economy. [Click here to read our letter.](#)



Providing every LAUSD first grader with a college savings account

The L.A. County CEO's office recently [reported](#) back to the Board of Supervisors on a collaborative effort three years in the making between the City of Los Angeles, L.A. County and LAUSD to open a college savings account with a \$50 seed deposit for every first grader enrolled in LAUSD. [Read more!](#)



Harvey Kawasaki, Compact Stewardship Group member, has retired

Congratulations, Harvey Kawasaki! Harvey retired after contributing 36 years with the County of Los Angeles—and making numerous substantial contributions to the well-being of Los Angeles students and families. His final position was with the County CEO's office, and in that capacity he served on the L.A. Compact Stewardship group since 2018. [Read more about his contributions!](#)



The Compact was busy in January and February

Furthering the work to make sure foster youth can enter the workforce; sharing teacher data to improve educator pathways; strengthening the quality of early care; and much more. [Check out what our workgroups accomplished!](#)



The L.A. Compact is convened primarily by UNITE-LA. Select workgroups are convened by other partner agencies.



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