

Helping Businesses that are Reopening and Recovering



Yesterday, U.S. Chamber Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer Neil Bradley spoke on a panel at [CNBC's Small Business Playbook: The Path Forward](#) event.

Bradley pointed out signs of small business optimism, noting that 30% surveyed in the recent MetLife & U.S. Chamber of Commerce Small Business Coronavirus Impact Poll said they will [increase staff](#) in the next year. "If we can do what we can for those businesses who want to expand, we can be optimistic about the future," said Bradley.

But different sectors of the economy are responding differently. For example, businesses that rely on events for revenue are still hurting. "We're really focused on those businesses that are recovering now and who will be the last to reopen and recover," said Bradley.

How small businesses can survive: Many small businesses are stepping up by working with bigger companies. "Larger Chamber members are looking at their small business supply chains and seeing stand-out stars who excel at what they do," said Bradley.

A changing economy: The pandemic is a catalyst for big changes, said Bradley. He tells policymakers in Washington, D.C., that if they assume the economy will be the same after the pandemic, "You're missing the opportunity for all the ingenuity that is happening."

For instance, while online sales have shown steady increases over the years, that growth skyrocketed during the pandemic. This opens the door for small businesses to find new ways of serving customers.

The businesses that will succeed are those "figuring out how to make temporary adjustments and permanent changes," said Bradley.

Looking ahead: In the next federal aid package the Chamber is looking for [timely, temporary, and targeted relief](#), focused on issues like a liability safe harbor, support for slow-to-recover employers, the unemployed, and state and local governments.

Specifically, Bradley mentioned allowing small businesses to obtain a second Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan, increasing the size of the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC), and directly targeting help to sole proprietors.