



# MTF presentation to the Re-Opening Advisory Board

Eileen McAnneny

President

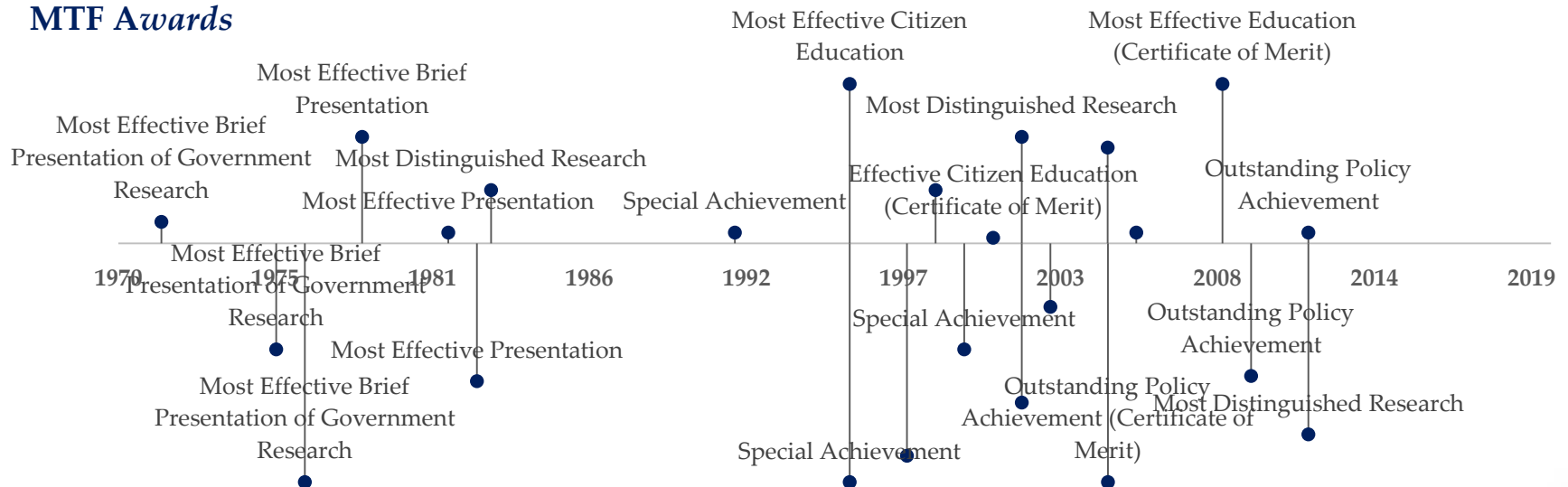
May 4, 2020

## Mission Statement

Founded in 1932, the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation is a non-partisan, non-profit research organization that serves as the independent source of information for the Commonwealth's decision-makers.

Our mission is to provide accurate, unbiased research with balanced, thoughtful recommendations that strengthen the state's finances and economy in order to foster the long-term well-being of the Commonwealth.

### MTF Awards



# I. Industry Level Readiness, Barriers and Enablers

- Current Readiness:
  - Differs by industry sector and size company



# I. Industry Level Readiness, Barriers and Enablers

- Barriers:

- 1. Health concerns**

- COVID-19 Testing
- Screening
- Tracing

- 2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- 3. Transportation**

- 4. Childcare**

- 5. Liability**

- 6. Logistics**



# I. Industry Level Readiness, Barriers and Enablers

- Critical Enablers:
  - Federal guidance whenever possible
    - One set of rules for companies operating in multiple jurisdictions
  - Flexibility for small businesses
  - Implementation of Safe Harbor provisions during pandemic for HIPPA, Discrimination and other- related statutes
  - Allowing Childcare providers to re-open
  - Adequate availability of PPE
  - Coordination of tracing among employers



# I. Industry Level Readiness, Barriers and Enablers

- Enforcement and Inspection Mechanisms:



## II. Industry Re-Open Preparation and Support

- Alterations to Workspace over 3-6-12 months
  - Increased remote working
  - Reconfiguration of office space
  - Less business travel
  - More investment in IT as use of technology for remote gatherings increases
  - Ensuring employees are comfortable returning to the workplace before requiring it
  - Logistics of moving people, i.e. Elevators and social distancing, i.e. lunch rooms



## II. Industry Re-Open Preparation and Support

- Industry Playbook?
  - MTF represents many different industry sectors so no one playbook
  - Common themes:
    - Gradual reopening
    - Employee and customer health concerns





## II. Industry Re-Open Preparation and Support

What Orders, Regulations and Statutes are Critical?

- Clear delineation of responsibility for testing, screening, PPE.
- Making sure that UI and family leave policies are not overly generous so that they discourage return to work.
- Clarification around how remote workers will impact a corporation's nexus with the Commonwealth.



## II. Industry Re-Open Preparation and Support

- How much advance notice would your industry need?
- Different notice requirements for different size businesses
  - Those that are operating successfully remotely – white-collar, professional service firms or corporate staff - are in no hurry to require workers to return to the office.
  - Small businesses in the retail or restaurant sector would like to open as soon as possible with clear guidance on what is expected and clear parameters around liability



## II. Industry Re-Open Preparation and Support

- Data or Metrics to Understand trends/health impacts?



# Thank you!

[www.masstaxpayers.org](http://www.masstaxpayers.org)

 @masstaxpayersfd

