



TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

BUSINESSES NEED SKILLS TRAINING

Right now, there are roughly **11 million job vacancies** with **more than 6 million people unemployed**. Despite the urgent need for workers, many businesses are unable to hire because applicants lack access to necessary training. This problem will only continue to grow as technology advances and older generations retire.

Advocates with Business Leaders United seek sufficient resources to fund federal skills training programs inclusive of incumbent worker training and digital literacy, support for industry and sector partnerships, funding for critical wrap-around support services, and expansion of Pell grant access to short-term, high-quality programs.

Increase appropriated funding to at least Fiscal Year 2001 levels for workforce programs including WIOA, CTE, and adult education state grants.

Increased funding will allow our nation's workforce system to

- cover the costs of training programs for those who are displaced and underemployed or unemployed in order to provide access to better, family-sustaining jobs than before the pandemic;
- provide access to support services like transportation and childcare which improve an individual's ability to complete training programs and succeed in jobs long-term;
- invest in incumbent worker training programs, inclusive of digital skills, that help workers adapt to technological changes and advance in the workplace;
- and establish digital literacy programs that prepare individuals with both the foundational and occupation specific skills necessary for 21st century jobs.

Pass the **ACCESS to Careers Act** and the **PARTNERS Act** to provide resources to sector partnerships

Sector Partnerships convene stakeholders such as employers, labor organizations, community colleges, and workforce boards to identify local workforce needs, develop credentials, deliver access to necessary training, and provide support services.

The **ACCESS to Careers Act** would provide grants to institutions to establish and scale training programs and offer support services while prioritizing people who traditionally face barriers in accessing these programs.

The **PARTNERS Act** would provide grants to partnerships allowing them to recruit lower income participants, develop curricula, provide basic education and training, and provide access to tools, attire, transportation, childcare, and other services.

Make Pell grants available for high-quality, short-term training programs that lead to in-demand jobs by passing the bipartisan **JOBS Act**.

Most jobs require education beyond high school but not a college degree. Many workers are unable to commit to long-term training programs while working or taking care of family. Yet many short term programs are not eligible for financial aid like Pell Grants.

The **JOBS ACT** expands Pell grants to people participating in programs of as little as 150 clock hours and 8 weeks that lead to a post-secondary credential. Making these programs more affordable will allow workers to upskill or reskill for in-demand jobs.