

VOCATIONAL JOB TRAINING IS KEY

MAINTAINING A QUALIFIED WORKFORCE IS VITAL TO PROVIDE THE HOMES OUR NATION NEEDS

- There is an average monthly shortage of 400,000 construction workers and the industry will need to add 2.2 million new workers over the next three years just to keep up with demand.
- This labor shortage delays the delivery of new homes to the market and increases housing costs for potential home buyers and renters.
- Congress must promote and fund vocational job training programs to prepare individuals for careers in home building.

WHY IT MATTERS

A renewed policy focus on the residential construction workforce could offer a productive outlet to provide well-paying jobs in an industry in urgent need of workers.

Job Corps, the Department of Labor's most successful workforce development program, is a critical element of the workforce pipeline that educates and prepares at-risk youth for fulfilling and highly desired careers in the nation's most in-demand industries. The Home Builders Institute (HBI), NAHB's training affiliate, has partnered with the Job Corps program for 49 years to provide individuals aged 16 – 24 years old with career technical education at 69 Job Corps locations across 40 states.

Congress must also invest in the incentives and infrastructure that drive students towards vocational education. Careers in the building trades offer workers well paid jobs and opportunities for professional growth. Government data shows that half of payroll workers in construction earn more than \$58,500. In comparison, the U.S. median wage is \$48,060. Congress can also support a robust construction workforce by seeking sensible immigration policies that preserve and expand existing temporary work visa programs while also creating new market-based visa programs that will accurately match demand with available labor.

SOLUTION

NAHB urges Congress to maintain its support for Job Corps and encourages funding (\$1.76 billion) that reflects the program's needs for fiscal year 2025. NAHB also supports efforts by Congress to promote and invest in technical education and careers in the home building industry. Furthermore, NAHB supports efforts that link comprehensive immigration reform with our national workforce needs.

QUESTIONS? Contact Sam Gilboard, Federal Legislative Director



sgilboard@nahb.org



202-266-8425



nahb.org