

BUILDING CAREERS IN RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

HOME BUILDING'S WORKFORCE DEFICIT

In any given month, there are more than 200,000 open jobs in construction. This deficit illustrates a much deeper problem affecting home builders - a lack of skilled tradespeople and insufficiently resourced training providers. If the federal government wants to achieve affordability in housing, then it must focus on ways to introduce more Americans to the skilled trades.

THE CONSTRUCTS ACT (H.R. 1055/S. 189)

CONSTRUCTS is a bipartisan, bicameral initiative aligned with the federal government's intent to put more Americans in high-paying skilled trades jobs. In fact, average hourly earnings in construction grew by 3.6 percent between 2024 and 2025, exceeding wage growth experienced by the manufacturing, transportation and mining sectors.

NAHB urges Congress to pass the CONSTRUCTS Act, which will create a first-of-its-kind competitive grant program that would support community colleges, trade schools and training providers engaged in teaching residential construction skills. CONSTRUCTS would open new pathways for Americans into the skilled trades, with a focus for those in rural and under-served communities. By giving training providers the resources needed to expand their residential workforce programs, the construction industry will have a pipeline of next-generation talent ready to help close the housing gap.

WORKFORCE TRAINING

NAHB and its workforce training affiliate, the Home Builders Institute (HBI), believe that Job Corps plays an important role in preparing low-income young adults for the future by giving them the training they need to find success in some of the country's most in-demand industries. NAHB and HBI recognize that to meet this obligation, Job Corps must strive to meet higher performance standards and be a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars.

NAHB urges Congress to reintroduce and pass the A Stronger Workforce for America Act which contains important Job Corps reforms. These reforms will ensure accountability, drive up cost-effectiveness and make Job Corps centers a healthy and safe place to learn.