



Take Action



Every day, there is more difficult news about the devastation of this pandemic, both about our health and wellbeing, and about the economic impact felt hardest by working people, communities of color, and small businesses.

The first coronavirus responses from Congress, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the CARES Act, have been steps in the right direction. However, they have left critical new investments in workforce development and retraining unaddressed. This has to change – and soon – as workers and job-seekers face an unprecedented employment catastrophe.

This is why we hope you will join us in signing on to the [Reinvesting in America's Workforce Act \(RAWA\)](#), recently introduced in the US House of Representatives.

-- [Sign on here by Friday, May 8!](#) --

Here are some of the things RAWA would do:

- Provide an additional \$15.6 billion in funding for workforce programs, including the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), and the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- Expands eligibility for WIOA to include new recipients of unemployment insurance through the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program
- Modernizes the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant program
- For specific details and additional analysis, [check out more information from the National Skills coalition](#).

Here in Illinois, many job seekers struggled to get by even before this pandemic hit. Coming out of this crisis, we must do better than simply getting back to normal. We must

ensure every Illinoisan has the opportunity to move beyond low-wage jobs into family-sustaining career pathways. Significant new federal resources will be necessary to make that happen.

[Thanks for joining us in supporting the Reinvesting in America's Workforce Act \(RAWA\) before Friday!](#)

Thank you,

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CJC moves people out of poverty through employment using on-the-ground expertise, advocacy, and capacity-building.