



# NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION

Every worker. Every industry. A strong economy.

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## Farm Bill increases training funds while rejecting harsh work requirements



This month, lawmakers announced that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other safety net programs in the Farm Bill will be renewed. There were [calls to increase work requirements](#) for SNAP recipients - even though work requirements often encourage people to take low-wage jobs rather than building skills and earning credentials that lead to in-demand careers. But **our voices were heard** and funding for training has been increased while ineffective work requirements were rejected. This is a huge win for workers and businesses!

To find out exactly what the new Farm Bill means for SNAP Employment & Training recipients, read our [in-depth analysis](#) of the bill - and [view the recording](#) of the pop-up briefing that NSC hosted with our partners discussing the implications of the new bill.

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**Apprenticeships should count!**



Many apprenticeship programs often lead to good jobs that pay a living wage. However, when states count people who have earned postsecondary credentials and when they set goals for postsecondary attainment, apprenticeships aren't always included.

Earlier this month, the Workforce Data Quality Campaign [released a paper](#) detailing how some states are counting people who have completed apprenticeships as part of their postsecondary attainment goals.

In response to the paper, NSC and our partners hosted two webinars focusing on counting and collecting apprenticeship data, as well as how support services such as child care can ensure that a diverse pipeline of workers can be successful in apprenticeship programs. You can view both webinars using the links below:

[Counting apprenticeship completions](#)

[Broadening the apprenticeship pipeline](#)

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**Will you be joining us at the 2019 Skills Summit?**



The NSC Skills Summit is around the corner! Whether you're a veteran advocate or going to Capitol Hill for the first time, 2019 will be an important year to engage. The 116th Congress will not only welcome many new members, but also debate and shape many of our key issues, including apprenticeship, postsecondary education, and safety net skills policy. Content highlights include:

- **Election reflections and projections:** Amidst the many divisive issues in the 2018 midterms, skills training quietly emerged as a nonpartisan, commonsense answer to economic anxieties felt by Americans on both sides of the political divide. Be the first to see preliminary results of the new public opinion research by NSC that looks at what Republican, Democrat, and independent voters want to hear from presidential candidates on this issue in the next election cycle - nationally and in key swing

states.

- **What does the new Congress mean for moving skills policy?** Analysts share what to expect and how to make the most of the newly elected members.
- **New White House guidelines for apprenticeship:** Hear from national experts and congressional staff about what this means for programs nationwide.
- **We can't compete if we cut.** The U.S. invests far less in workforce programming than other developed countries. Hear from Hill staff and national appropriations experts on the outlook in the new Congress for increasing critical investments in workforce and education funding and learn how NSC advocates can help policy makers meet business demand and worker need.

The full updated agenda can be found [here](#). Seats are limited, so reserve your spot [here](#) before the holidays!

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### **Storytelling at the White House: BLU tells job training success stories to the administration and on Capitol Hill**



Earlier this month, leaders from Business Leaders United gathered in Washington, D.C. with associates from their companies who have benefitted from on-the-job training, upskilling, or apprenticeships. Together, the business leaders and workers told their own stories about the impact that work-based learning programs have for people and the companies they work for. **Their audience? Congress and the White House.**

These powerful, first-hand stories are the kind of thing that really make an impact on policymakers. Workers spoke about how their training opportunities resulted in career advancement and improved their lives (and the lives of their families). Business leaders talked about how work-based learning makes it possible for their companies to grow and be successful.

Policymakers left with a checklist of policy ideas they could support in order close the skills gap – and some unforgettable, real-world stories that illustrate why we must invest in policies that get people and businesses the skills they need to compete.

Read more about the fly-in [here](#).

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