



National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity

NAPE PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE—MAY 2014

Administration

Preparing for White House Summit on Working Families

The White House, U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), the White House Council on Women and Girls and the Center for American Progress (CAP) will host a Summit on Working Families at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC, on June 23, 2014. The Summit will focus on creating a 21st-century workforce that works for all Americans. The Summit places substantial emphasis on the increasingly important role of women as breadwinners in working families. Topics will include workplace flexibility, equal pay, workplace discrimination, worker retention and promotion, elder care, child care, and low-wage workers.

Although space is limited, there is a [nomination process to attend the Summit](#). Summit Partners ask that you spread the word about the White House Summit through social media. You can tweet using the hashtag [#WorkingFamilies](#). The [website](#) has a number of ways for you and your membership to get involved in the lead-up to the summit.

In preparation for the national Summit, a number of DOL regional summits are taking place across the country. The next regional forum will take place on May 27, 2014, at the Milton Marks Auditorium at 455 Golden Gate Avenue in San Francisco. DOL Secretary Tom Perez is the featured speaker.

To build momentum for the June 23rd event, communities are encouraged to “Host an Event!” These local events will demonstrate the breath of support for working families while sharing compelling stories behind “real life” issue that families face every day. Upcoming local Working Families Events include:

Florida Women and Families Economic Security Summit

Brought to you by Organize Now (Orlando, Florida)

Hosted by the Center for American Progress Action Fund, Organizing for Action

Saturday, June 7, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Pennsylvania Women and Families Economic Summit

Brought to you by Keystone Progress

Hosted by The Center for American Progress Action Fund, Organizing for Action (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania)

Friday, May 30, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

For more information about local events, go to [Events on Working Families About Us Page](#). Communities interested in hosting an event can use the links below to find answers to questions or for more support.

- Use this [form](#) to share information about your event.
- After your event, please [tell Summit Partners about your event](#) so we can amplify the event and work that you did.

Disappointing News for 302(b) Labor-H Allocation *Rachel Gragg, National Skills Coalition*

Coalition groups are discouraged by the proposed fiscal year (FY) 2015 302(b) allocation for the Labor-Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations (Labor-H) bill. The Campaign to Invest in America’s Workforce (CIAW), for which NAPE is a member, along with the Coalition for Education Funding (CEF) and Coalition for Health Funding (CHF), sent letters to the Committee expressing their concerns for the cuts.

Although advocates recognize that the Committee faces significant fiscal constraints under the existing budget caps, the proposed allocation is disturbing in that it is \$1 billion less than FY 2014 levels, which was \$17.1 billion below FY 2010 (adjusted for inflation). To offer perspective and put this in context:

FY 13 pre-sequester	\$156.556B
FY 13 post-sequester	\$149.640B
FY 14 House	\$121.797B
FY 14 Final	\$156.773B (+4.8% post-FY 13 sequester)
FY15 House	\$155.693B (-0.7% FY 14 final)

Since 2010, discretionary programs have absorbed nearly three-quarters of the funding cuts made under the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution, the Budget Control Act, the American Taxpayer Relief Act, and other austerity measures. Rather than reversing this trend and beginning to restore funding for core government functions, the FY 2015 Labor-H allocation proposed by the Committee instead continues this trend toward disinvestment.

The proposed 302(b) allocation, which is lower than every year since FY 2001 when adjusted for inflation, will require additional cuts to adult basic education, career and technical education, occupational training, veterans’ programs, and programs that serve special populations. These cuts will inevitably harm our economy by denying jobseekers the skills they need to succeed in the labor market and employers the skilled workforce they need to compete in the global economy.

Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member of the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee, recently gave an update on the FY 2015 process to coalition groups. During the discussion, Congresswoman DeLauro made it clear that without significant pressure, most NDD programs—especially Labor-H—are at serious risk of another round of cuts.

Congress

Bipartisan, Bicameral Group Announces Deal to Improve American Workforce Development System *Sean Coit, Press Secretary, Office of U.S. Senator Patty Murray*

After months of negotiations, leaders from House, Senate introduce Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Current federal workforce laws, written in 1998, have been overdue for reauthorization for more than ten years.

On May 20th, a bipartisan, bicameral group of lawmakers announced that they have reached a deal to improve the nation's workforce development system through new legislation, the [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#) (WIOA). [The bill](#), which will now be considered by both the House and Senate, [modernizes and improves existing federal workforce development programs](#), helps workers attain skills for 21st-century jobs, and fosters the modern workforce that evolving American businesses rely on to compete. The [Statement of Managers](#) includes a section-by-section summary of the legislation.

WIOA represents a compromise between the SKILLS Act (H.R. 803), which passed the House of Representatives in March of 2013 with bipartisan support, and the Workforce Investment Act of 2013 (S. 1356), which passed through the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee with [a bipartisan vote of 18-3 in July of 2013](#).

Access to training, education, and employment services opens doors to the middle class for workers and helps strengthen our economy. This bipartisan, bicameral reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act will help ensure that all workers—including those with disabilities—can access these opportunities. It will provide better coordination and value to our workforce development system... This bill also makes groundbreaking changes that will raise prospects and expectations for Americans with disabilities, many of whom, under current law, are shunted to segregated, subminimum wage settings without ever receiving the opportunities and skills to succeed in competitive, integrated employment. It will stem the flow of young people into segregated employment by requiring that they be given experience in integrated settings, and require state Vocational Rehabilitation programs to work with individuals to develop an individual employment plan and support them in integrated work settings. This bill truly represents the spirit of bipartisan compromise and cooperation, and I applaud my colleagues on the HELP Committee and on the Education and the Workforce Committee for their perseverance and commitment to updating this critical law. I urge senators on both sides of the aisle to support this bill when it comes up for a vote.

—*Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee*

We can't expect a modern workforce to succeed with an outdated job training system. The current workforce development system is broken with too much bureaucracy, too many inefficiencies, and too little accountability.... The problems we face have been apparent for a long time and I am pleased we are moving toward adopting comprehensive reform that provides employers, workers, and taxpayers the job training solutions they deserve. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to send this agreement to the president's desk without delay.

—*Representative John Kline (R-MN), Chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee*

Last year the federal government spent more than \$145 million in Tennessee through a maze of programs trying to help Tennesseans find work.... Our legislation will simplify that maze, give governors and states more flexibility, and make it easier for Tennessee's 13 local workforce investment boards to match job seekers with the skills employers are looking for.

—*Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), a Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee.*

By revising the original Workforce Investment Act to support access to real-world education in fields that are in demand locally, this legislation will help more workers across the country find a good job or train for a new career. Similar to the legislation proposed by Reps. Tierney and Hinojosa earlier this Congress, this bill also makes job training programs more efficient and effective by requiring that states developed unified plans to streamline and better coordinate these services.... By strengthening the workforce development system, we will increase accountability, promote innovation, and make it easier to track results, while helping put more Americans back to work. I'm proud to have worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to develop this proposal and hope to see it signed into law this year.

—*Representative George Miller (D-CA), a senior Democrat on the House Education and the Workforce Committee.*

Every year, federal workforce investments help millions of Americans get back to work, go back to school, and increase their skills for an economy that's changing faster than ever, but for too long, we've been relying on workforce development programs written in the 1990s.... This bipartisan, bicameral legislation will bring federal worker programs into the 21st Century, give workers and students the resources they need to succeed, and foster a workforce that American businesses rely on to compete. It's a prime example of what's possible when Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate work together to write laws that help our economy grow. I want to thank Senator Isakson, who co-authored the Senate reauthorization bill with me, and all of my colleagues, for their hard work and commitment to moving this forward.

—*Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), a senior member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee*

This is a good example of what Congress can achieve when we all come to the table and work towards a compromise that respects the opinions of legislators on both sides of the aisle.... This bill will eliminate fifteen duplicative programs, help the remaining programs better align worker education with available jobs and improve our ability to gauge how well the system is working as a whole. I want to thank my colleagues in the House for passing

the SKILLS Act and my colleagues in the Senate for considering this long overdue re-authorization of the Workforce Investment Act.

—*Representative Virginia Foxx (R-NC), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Higher Education and the Workforce Training*

Workforce investment and training is critically important to help grow the American economy still recovering from recession and to bridge the widening skills gap separating thousands of unemployed workers from good-paying jobs.... I thank Senator Murray and my colleagues for their bipartisan efforts on this legislation, and I look forward to getting this measure passed so we can get Americans back to work and meet the modern demands of businesses employees in a global environment.

—*Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA), a senior member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee*

This bipartisan agreement helps American workers get back on track by promoting sector strategies and career pathways that lead to good jobs and postsecondary education in our nation's public workforce training and adult education system.... This bill makes certain that the connection between adult education, postsecondary education and the workforce is strengthened. We as a nation must be inclusive in our workforce, and this bill provides better services to workers young and old, with disabilities, and to those populations that have significant barriers to employment. It also addresses the need to improve services for English language learners that will ease their participation into our nation's workforce. I am pleased to see the progress we are making in the Senate and in the House and look forward to having this bill signed into law.

—*Representative Rubén Hinojosa (D-TX), the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Higher Education and the Workforce Training.*

SETRA Makes Its Way Through the House *NASDCTE CTE Update, May 16, 2014*

The House approved through voice vote the Strengthening Education through Research Act (SETRA). The bipartisan vote and legislation reauthorizes the Education Sciences Reform Act (ESRA), which supports educational research programs such as the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) exams. and state longitudinal data systems.

“The Strengthening Education through Research Act will improve education research and help ensure more schools and students can benefit from effective educational practices,” said Rep. Rokita (R-IN) upon passage of the legislation.

Of particular interest to the CTE community is SETRA's authorization for state longitudinal data system (SLDS) grants, which encourage the alignment of data across K-12, postsecondary, and workforce programs. These grants support the capacity of states and programs to report on post-program employment outcomes for CTE graduates. Additionally, the bill strongly emphasizes the importance of using data effectively for continuous program improvement. As Rep. Rokita pointed out during debate on the House floor, “What good does the data do us if it can't be used?”

In addition to moving forward on SETRA, the House also passed the Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act (H.R. 10), which streamlines two existing charter school

programs into a single \$300 million annual program to support the development and expansion of high-quality charter schools—a \$50 million increase over current funding levels. The bill passed with overwhelming bipartisan support on a margin of 360-45. House CTE Caucus Co-Chairs Rep. Glenn “GT” Thompson (R-PA) and Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI) also successfully passed an amendment to the bill before its final passage, which added comprehensive career counseling to the criteria the Secretary of Education must consider when making grants under this legislation.

“This amendment recognizes that career counseling is a critical tool we must promote in order to assure that students are informed and prepared to meet their next educational or career challenge,” Rep. Thompson said upon the amendment's adoption.

Kaine Introduces the CREDIT Act *NASDCTE CTE Update, May 16, 2014*

Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) recently introduced the [Credentialing Improvement for Troop Talent \(CREDIT\) Act of 2014](#) to help members of the armed services acquire credentials for use in the civilian labor market. The bill would expand the authority of the Tuition Assistance program currently available to service members by allowing the program to cover expenses stemming from obtaining a civilian credential. Under the program's current rules, the program only provides financial assistance for postsecondary programs and does not cover fees from certification or licensing programs.

“The CREDIT Act will provide service members with the resources they need to obtain civilian credentials while on active duty, easing their entry into the civilian workforce and improving their chances of getting quickly hired by a private sector employer,” said Sen. Kaine upon the introduction of his bill.

Perkins Coalition Urges Congress to Reauthorize and Improve the Perkins CTE Act

ACTE, NASDCTE, NAPE, American Federation of Teachers, NAACP, American Association of Community Colleges, American Association of People with Disabilities, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Manufacturers, IBM, Boeing Company, Honda North America, National Skills Coalition are just a few of the 200 plus organizations, labor unions, companies, and chambers of commerce that came together to provide support for a [letter to Members of Congress encouraging their support of career and technical education](#) and the reauthorization of Perkins. “There aren't many letters that can attract such a diverse set of supporters,” noted Geoffrey Lane with the Information Technology Industry Council. Members of Congress received the letter on Monday, May 19th, just after a cautiously encouraging coalition meeting with House Committee on Education and Workforce committee staff.

Members of Congress were urged to focus on areas where improvements could be made to current law, building upon past successes and enhancing aspects of the Perkins Act, in ways that will better serve both workers and employers. The unified front letter noted that three key points in any revised reauthorization of Perkins should include the following:

1. Align CTE programs to the needs of the regional, state, and local labor market;
2. Support effective and meaningful collaboration between secondary and postsecondary institutions and employers;

3. Increase student participation in experiential learning opportunities such as industry internships, apprenticeships and mentorships; and promote the use of industry-recognized credentials.

Politico Pro ran a brief commentary on the letter in its May 20th Morning Education Email. In addition, a number of congressional offices have already expressed support for the letter, thereby encouraging coalition members to become much more vocal in their public support to move Perkins Reauthorization forward.

Other News

New Research Explores the Barriers Women Face in Seeking Higher Office [IWPR Press Release](#)

A [new report](#) released today by [Political Parity](#), a nonpartisan program of Hunt Alternatives, finds that women in politics often encounter a series of structural and social roadblocks that make it difficult to navigate a road to higher office. The findings in the report draw on insights from focus groups and in-depth interviews conducted by the [Institute for Women's Policy Research](#) (IWPR) and polling of female state legislators by Lake Research Partners and Chesapeake Beach Consulting.

Women hold fewer than 20% of seats in Congress and just 5 of 50 governorships. Women's ascent to high office has slowed rather than accelerated in the past decade. If current trends continue, IWPR projects that women will not hold an equal number of seats in Congress [until 2121](#).

“Women have made progress getting into formerly male-dominated careers, such as law and medicine, through higher education, but there is no single degree or path that enables someone to enter elected office,” said IWPR President Heidi Hartmann, Ph.D. Women running for office must overcome significant barriers put up by informal and diffuse political networks that advance candidates to higher office.”

Findings from [IWPR's qualitative study](#) outline the challenges faced by women candidates and office holders, including sexual harassment from their male colleagues, donors, and voters, and a demanding work schedule, which often requires them to hold multiple part-time jobs to make ends meet. IWPR's study outlines [several recommendations](#) for making systemic change so that more women are recruited to run and are then supported throughout their political careers. “The political leaders we studied do not lack ambition. They make extraordinary sacrifices to pursue political careers that they love and believe will make a difference in the lives of the people they serve,” said Denise Baer, Ph.D., an independent consultant and co-author of the IWPR study. “Expanding candidate recruitment to include arenas where women are already leaders, such as in community organizing, as well as reducing structural barriers, including ‘campaigning while female,’ will grow women's numbers.”

Federal Grants

U.S. Department of Labor Announces \$53 Million to Expand and Strengthen Workforce Development Strategies *U.S. Department of Education, OCTAE Update*

The U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) recently announced the availability of \$53 million to be awarded under the [Workforce Innovation Fund \(WIF\) grant program](#). The announcement notes that the ETA anticipates awarding between 8 and 15 grants to support innovative practices designed to “generate long-term improvements in the performance of the public workforce system, outcomes for job seekers and employers, and cost-effectiveness.” This is the second round of grants available under the WIF.

According to U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez, “developing more efficient and effective job training solutions is crucial to building the pipeline of skilled workers needed to compete in the global economy.” Many of the funded first-round grantees “are now working with local and regional employers, industry groups, and their state commerce and development agencies to strengthen public-private partnerships.” This second round of funding is intended to help spur on and expand similar efforts.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to review the full [solicitation](#) for additional information, including grantee eligibility. Adult education providers considering an application for this round of funding may wish to review the work of [first-round grantees](#). See the Workforce Innovation Fund [website](#) for more information, application tools, and resources. Applications are due by Wednesday, June 18, 2014, and awards will be made in September 2014.

FY 2015 Research Grant Competitions from the Institute of Education Sciences *U.S. Department of Education, OCTAE Update*

The [Institute of Education Sciences](#) (IES) at the U.S. Department of Education has announced its research grants competitions for the 2015 fiscal year. The following two opportunities may be of interest to community colleges and researchers:

1. The Education Research Grant Programs supports a variety of efforts by researchers to develop, improve, and evaluate education policies and programs. One of the topic areas for which the institute is currently accepting proposals is [postsecondary and adult education research](#) (CFDA 84.305A).
2. The Partnerships and Collaborations Focused on Problems of Practice or Policy program (CFDA 84.305H) provides funding for [education practitioners and researchers](#) to work together to develop research plans, adopt a continuous improvement strategy, and/or evaluate education policies and programs that are already operating on a large scale. Postsecondary and adult education programs qualify to be funded under this program.

For each grant program the announcement lists an IES staff person who can answer questions and provide technical assistance during the grant writing process. IES also offers webinars on how to prepare a research proposal. To apply, follow the instructions in each program link. Grant applications for both programs are due on August 7, 2014.

TAACCCT Grants Program's Fourth and Final Round Opens with \$450 Million U.S. Department of Education, OCTAE Update

The DOL's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) recently announced the availability of \$450 million in grant funds for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grants Program. DOL intends to make grant awards to eligible single institution applicants in all states, as well as to consortia of eligible institutions. OCTAE stakeholders are encouraged to review the full grant [announcement](#) for eligibility, application, and award information.

Through this fourth and final round of TAACCCT funding, DOL is focused on “advancing innovative, sector-based system change in regional and statewide economies.... These grant projects will create industry-driven strategies that are responsive to regional labor markets and state economies.” The grant program seeks to “increase the number of workers who attain certificates, degrees, and other industry-recognized credentials.” It also aims to “introduce or replicate innovative and effective methods for designing and delivering instruction that address specific industry needs and lead to improved learning, completion, and other outcomes...and [that] demonstrate improved employment outcomes” to help meet the administration's “college graduation goal of increasing the percentage of adults with a post-secondary credential by 2020.” DOL is implementing TAACCCT in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education in the jointly held belief that the program can provide impetus, through higher education, for the creation of career pathways for adults to skilled jobs in growth industries, thereby enhancing both individuals' lives and the U.S. economy. Applications are due on July 7, 2014.