

# Cuts to Job Programs Will Stifle Employment Options for Young People

Posted by [Aliya Karim](#)  
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SOURCE: AP / Nati Harnik

*Teenagers filling out job applications at a public library in Arcata, Calif.*

## Tell New York City to Pay Its Contractors a Living Wage

Currently, city contractors in New York can earn as little as \$7.25 an hour.

**ACT NOW!**

Join Living Wage NYC in demanding that the city raise its pay to at least \$10 an hour and provide health benefits or subsidies for contractors.

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On March 2, 2011, Congress approved a spending plan to continue funding the federal government through March 18. House Republicans and Senate Democrats have until then to address the differences in their approaches to proposed cuts in domestic discretionary programs, which could be implemented for the remainder of the fiscal year.

As part of their proposed \$61 billion in cuts, Republican House leadership is recommending a cut in over \$4 billion from employment training programs, which would drastically impact low-wage earners, especially young people. These programs, which promote building skills to help unemployed workers get back on their feet, are essential at a time when over 14 million Americans are unemployed.

The National Skills Coalition estimated that the proposed cuts would shut down 3,000 Workforce Investment Act One-Stop Centers. This could deny access to the center to over 8 million workers and cut job training for young people. The cuts would also take \$300 million away from the Job Cops, a program that is designed to help disadvantaged young people get on-the-job work experience. With 38 percent teens unemployed during the summer of 2009 and over 20 percent of 16 to 24-year-olds currently unemployed—the highest percentage ever recorded—unemployment among young people could greatly increase as a result of these cuts.

Cutting these programs will unnecessarily reduce the already low number of skilled workers, particularly young people, in the United States

and further reduce the country's productivity.

Proposed employment and training cuts			
Employment and training programs	FY 2010 enacted	Cuts	Impact
WIA state grants	\$2.9 billion	\$2.9 billion	Eliminates all funding for WIA in program year 2011*
Adult	\$861 million		
Youth	\$924 million		
Dislocated Worker Assistance	\$1.1 billion		
Career Pathways Innovation	\$125 million	\$125 million	Eliminates program
Youthbuild	\$102.5 million	\$102.5 million	Eliminates program
Job Corps	\$1.7 billion	\$300 million	Restricts training slots
Green Jobs Innovation Fund	\$40 million	\$40 million	Eliminates program
Re-integration of Ex-offenders	\$108.5 million	\$108.5 million	Eliminates program
Community Services Employment for Older Americans	\$825 million	\$525 million	Restricts training and volunteer opportunities for seniors

SOURCE: Center for American Progress Action Fund

This article is based on [analysis](#) from our sister organization, the Center for American Progress Action Fund.

*Aliya Karim is an online communications intern for Campus Progress.*