June 8th, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
The Capitol, S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
The Capitol, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
136 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
160 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 201510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

We applaud Congress’ ongoing and bipartisan efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including legislation that has shored up our unemployment insurance system, expanded access to food and other needed assistance programs, and otherwise helped to blunt the immediate impact of the crisis on America’s families, workers, businesses, and economy.

Since the start of the crisis, more than 40 million workers newly filed for unemployment benefits, and unemployment could easily reach 20 percent; cresting above even Great Depression era numbers. As we look to future packages that respond to our current crisis and its recovery, workers and businesses desperately need Congress to include vital investments in skills workers need to fill in-demand jobs today and to return to the workforce once our economy reopens.

Specifically, the undersigned organizations urge Congress to immediately invest at least $15 billion in our nation’s workforce development system, consistent with investments proposed in the Relaunching America’s Workforce Act, to ensure that we can respond quickly to current and projected demands for new workers in key industries, while helping those who have lost their jobs as a result of this crisis to transition to new family-supporting jobs.

Funding of this magnitude will be necessary to allow for services aimed at assisting the millions of Americans who will need help navigating the new unemployment and reemployment process in this time of crisis and businesses working to reskill and upskill workers. It will help workers identify careers in in-demand industries and occupations, seek the education and training needed for these careers, and access supports like childcare and transportation that can help them succeed in training and in new jobs.
It will ensure businesses are able to inform training provided in in-demand occupations and empower states and local areas to support access and analysis of labor market information necessary for rapid response to regional needs.

Our nation’s workforce system – including workforce boards, labor unions, community and technical colleges, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders – stands ready to assist in getting U.S. workers and businesses the skills they need for today’s challenges and tomorrow’s economic resurgence. Unfortunately, current investments in the U.S. workforce system fall far short of the needs of workers, businesses, and communities. The U.S. invests 25 percent less in workforce programming today than we did before the great recession. During that downturn, the workforce system experienced a more than 200 percent increase in the number of Americans seeking reemployment and training services. At that time, Congress responded with a 40 percent increase in funding for employment and training assistance through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act – enabling the nation’s workforce system to serve more than 8 million people in 2009. Today’s crisis is even more acute and necessitates a more drastic investment to meet current and future need.

Again, we urge Congress to invest at least $15 billion in the nation’s workforce development system, including programs authorized under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) that are designed to serve adults, dislocated workers and opportunity youth, as well as Wagner-Peyser and Adult Education and Family Literacy; and the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act as part of the next stimulus package.

We thank you for your continued efforts to mitigate the harmful impacts of this pandemic on US workers and businesses, and we look forward to working with your offices to make sure our next legislative response includes necessary investments in our most important resource: our people.

Sincerely,

66 Training Services, LLC
A Cut Above the Rest Training Facility
A.R.E. Manufacturing Inc.
ACCESS
AccuRounds
ACE MV
Adams 14 Adult Learning Center
Adult Learning Solutions, LLC
Adult Literacy League
Advance CTE
Advanced Superabrasives Inc.
Aiken County Adult Ed
Akron Leadership Foundation
Akron Public Schools
Akron Tool & Die
Akron Urban League
Akron Urban Minority Alcoholism Drug Abuse Outreach Program Inc
Alameda County Workforce Development Board
Alaska Adult Education Association
Alaska Literacy Program
American Association of Community Colleges
American Library Association
AnitaB.org
Ann Arbor SPARK
Anne Arundel County Literacy Council
Anne Arundel County Workforce Development Corp.
Annie T. Jeffers Library
Arizona Workforce Association
Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce
Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College
Asian Services in Action, Inc.
Association for Career and Technical Education
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs
Association of People Supporting Employment First
Association of Washington Business
Association of Woodworking & Furnishing Suppliers (AWFS)
ASW Global
Atlanta Center for Self Sufficiency
Atlantic Cape Community College
Audio- Technica U.S., Inc.
Augustus F. Hawkins Foundation
Austin Chamber of Commerce
Austin Community College
Bakers and Grain Millers Local 114
Basic Education for Development
Bay Area Workforce Development Board
Beacon Hill Community Services, Inc.
Bedford County Technical Center
Bella Luna Restaurant
Berkshire Workforce Board
Bernardine Franciscan Sisters
BEST Hospitality Training Corps.
Blarney Stone Broadcasting, Inc.
BLARNEY STONE BROADCASTING. INC.
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Boston Centerless
Boulder Valley Family Literacy
Broncos Community College
Brookdale Community College
Brooklyn Workforce Innovations
Broward Community Schools
Bucks County Workforce Development Board, Inc.
Building Pathways, Inc
Building Skills Partnership
Burke County Literacy Council
Byte Back
Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute
California ACTE
California EDGE Coalition
California Indian Manpower Consortium, Inc.
California Technology Council
California Workforce Association
Calumet Area Industrial Commission
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, Arkansas
Camden County College
Cara Chicago
Career and Technical Association of Texas
Career Development and Placement Strategies
Career Ladders Project
Career Link
Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle
Center for Occupational Research and Development
Center for Work Education and Employment (CWEE)
Central City Concern
Central Iowa Works
Central Nine Adult Education
Central Ohio Technical College
Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation
Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation
Central Six AlabamaWorks!
Central States SER
Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development
Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Inc.
Charlotte Works
Chemeketa Community College
Chester County OIC
Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition
Chicago Jobs Council
Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation
City of Estacada
City of Ironwood Economic Development Corporation
City of Sandy, Oregon
City University of New York
Clackamas County Social Services
Clackamas Workforce Partnership
Clackamas Workforce Partnership
Clover Park Technical College
Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE)
Coalition on Temporary Shelter
Coast to Crest Fund
Cobb Chamber of Commerce
Coconino Community College
Colorado Association for Career & Technical Education (CACTE)
Colorado Center on Law and Policy
Colorado Northwestern Community College
Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council
Columbus County Literacy Council
Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education
Community Learning Center
Compass Policy Strategies LLC
Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education
Construction Education Foundation of GA (CEFGA)
ConxusNEO
Corporation for a Skilled Workforce
Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland
Council for South Texas Economic Progress, Inc.
County of Humboldt
County of Merced
Crawford County Adult Education Center
Credential Engine
Culinary Academy of Las Vegas
Cypress Assistance Ministries
Dabney S. Lancaster Community College
DavidsonWorks Workforce Development Board
Delta County
Delta County Chamber Of Commerce
Delta County Economic Development Alliance
Delta Systems, Inc.
Denmark Technical College
Department of Human Services
Development Authority of Houston County
Development Authority of Jeffersonville-Twiggs Co
Development Authority of Monroe County
Dickinson Area Economic Development Alliance
East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation
East Bay Economic Development Alliance
East Cascades Works
East Mississippi Community College
Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Inc.
Eastern Indiana Works
Eastern Iowa Community Colleges
Eastern UP Regional Planning and Development Commission
Easterseals Oregon
Eckerd Connects
Economic Development Department, Oregon City, OR
Edison Neighborhood Association
Education and Workforce Solutions
Education Northwest
Edunet Technologies
EMPath
Employ Prince George's Inc.
Employd
Employment & Employer Services (E&ES)
Essential Education Corporation
Evolve Creative Group
Exceed Enterprises
Fairfield by Marriott Gaylord
Family Freedom Center
Fathers and Sons of Northeast OHIO
Faurlawn Rehabilitation Hospital
Fifth Avenue Committee
Florence Area Chamber of Commerce
FOCUS Hispanic Center for Community Development, Inc
Four-M Associates, Communications Management
Fox Valley Literacy
Franklin Hampshire Employment & Training Consortium
Fremont Area Community Foundation
G. Stephens Inc.
Gateway Consultants Group, Inc
General Sheet Metal
Go Ye, Inc.
Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy, Penn State University
Goodwill Industries International, Inc
Goodwill NYNJ
Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania
Goodwill of the Olympics and Rainier Region
Goodwill of Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas
Goodwill Southern California
Goodwill/Center for Strong Families/LISC
Grabemeyer Consulting
Grand Forks Area Career & Technology Center
Grand Island Public Schools
Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works!
Great Lakes Community Action Partnership
Greater Akron Chamber
Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce
Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce
Greater Brownsville Incentives Corp
Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board (Masshire)
Greater Memphis Chamber
Greater Munising Bay Partnership/Alger Co. Chamber & Munising DDA
Greater Spokane Inc.
Green City Force
Greenville Literacy Association
Grow Southwest Indiana Workforce Board, Inc.
Growing Home Inc.
GST Michigan Works
Guilford County Workforce Development Board
Hamlin-Lincoln County Libraries Adult Education Program
Harford Community College
Harrisburg Area Community College
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
Heartland Alliance
Hegewisch Business Association
Hennepin Technical College
Heritage Ministries
Higher Learning Advocates
Highland Community Builders
Highland Community College
Hillsdale Hospital
HIRE360 Chicago
Home Forward
Horizon Education Alliance Adult Pathways
Houghton County Board of Commissioners
Human Resource Development Foundation, Inc.
HumanKind
Hunter College
Illinois Adult and Continuing Educators Association
Illinois Workforce Partnership
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization - IRCO
Impact Equitable Justice Inc
Imperial County Workforce & Economic Development
IMPRINT
Indian Hills Community College
Indiana Association for Adult and Continuing Education
Indiana Institute for Working Families
Indiana Workforce Board Alliance (INWBA)
IndyPendence Job Corps
Inland Northwest Health Services
Innovent Technologies
Instituto del Progreso Latino
Integrity Transformations Community Development Corporation
International Economic Development Council (IEDC)
International Institute of Akron
Ironworkers Local 29
Ironworkers USA FCU
IU13
Ivy Tech Community College
Jabil Healthcare Asheville
Jackson Area Manufacturers Association
Jackson College
Jackson Hinds Library System
Jane Addams Resource Corporation - Baltimore
JE Dunn Construction
Jefferson College
JEVS Human Services
Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis
Jewish Vocational Service of MetroWest
Jewish Vocational Service San Francisco
Jewish Vocational Services SoCal
Jim and Kay Mabie!
JMPDX
JMPDX Property Management
Job Training for Beaver County, Inc.
Jobs for the Future
JobsFirstNYC
JOG-Miami Valley
John A Logan College
Karen Organization of Minnesota
KentuckianaWorks
Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE)
Kern Literacy Council
Key Adult Academy
Keystone Technology Consultants
Khanadia Ventures, LLC
Kingman Area Literacy Program
Kingman Area Literacy Program
Kingsport Chamber
Kirkwood Community College
La Plaza de Encuentro Gathering Place (Encuentro)
Labor Institute for Training, Inc.
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College
Laclede Literacy Council
LaGuardia College
Lake County Workforce Development
Lake Land College
Lake Superior community partnership
Lancaster County Workforce Investment Board
Land of Sky Regional Council
Lane Professional Firefighters IAFF L851
Lane Workforce Partnership
LCSA
Learn to Read of St. Johns County, Inc.
LearningWorks
Leung Consulting
Lincoln County Adult Literacy
Lincoln Land Community College
LISC Chicago
Literacy Action
Literacy Coalition of Colorado
Literacy Council of Buncombe County
Literacy Council of Garland County, Arkansas
Literacy Council of Northwest Arkansas
Literacy Council of Reading -Berks
Literacy Council of Western Arkansas
Literacy Council Reading Berks
Literacy of Northern New York, Inc.
Literacy Pittsburgh
Literacy Services of Wisconsin
Literacy Texas
Literacy Volunteers of Campbell County Public Library
Literacy Volunteers of Charlottsville/Albemarle
Literacy Volunteers of Collier County
Literacy Volunteers of Greater Augusta
Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven
Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven
Literacy Volunteers of Illinois
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
Lodi Chamber of Commerce
Long Island Cares, Inc.-The Harry Chapin Food Bank
Lorain County Community College
Loud Security Systems, Inc.
Luce County Economic Development Corporatior
Lumbee Regional Development Assoc.
Lumber River Council of Governments
Lumber River Council of Governments
Lupson Associates LLC
Macomb Community College
Madden Industrial Craftsmen, Inc.
Magna International Inc.
Manchester School of Technology
Margaret Walker Alexander Library
Marty Miles Consulting
Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education
Massachusetts Communities Action Network
Massachusetts Workforce Association
MassHire Berkshire Career Center
MassHire Greater Lowell Workforce Board
MassHire Greater New Bedford Workforce Board
MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board, Inc.
MassHire Holyoke
MassHire Lowell Career Center
MassHire Merrimack Valley Career Center
MassHire Metro North Career Centers
MassHire Metro South/West Workforce Board
Masshire North Central Workforce Board
MassHire-North Shore Workforce Board
Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance
Metro South/West Employment & Training Administration Inc
Metro Atlanta Chamber
Metropolitan Community College
MGEA Works
Michigan Works! Association
Michigan Works! Northeast Consortium
Michigan Works! Southwest
Michigan Works! West Central
MicroMatters LLC
Mid-East Commission
Midwest Urban Strategies, Inc.
Miles Fiberglass & Composites
Mills Machine Co
Milwaukee Area Workforce Funding Alliance
Milwaukee Tech Hub Coalition
Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
Minority freedom community fund
MIRA Coalition
MiraCosta College Technology Career Institute
Mississippi Delta Council for Farmworkers Opportunities, Inc.
Monroe Community College
Monterey County Workforce Development Bpard
Montgomery County Community College
Mother Lode Job Training
Mountain Area Workforce Development Board
Mt. Hood Community College
Multnomah County Commissioner, District 2
Multnomah County District 2
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE)
National Association of Counties
National Association of Regional Councils
National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)
National Association of Workforce Boards
National Association of Workforce Development Professionals
National Career Development Association
National Center for Families Learning
National Coalition for Literacy
National Coalition for Literacy
National Coalition of Advanced Technology Centers (NCATC)
National Council of State Directors of Adult Education
National League of Cities
National Skills Coalition
National Taskforce on Tradeswomen’s Issues
National Taskforce on Tradeswomen’s Issues
Neighborhood Resource Center
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
New Horizons Computer Learning Centers
New Mexico Association for Career Technical Education
New Moms
New Readers Press-Ed-Tex
New Ways to Work
Newark Alliance
NewBridge Cleveland Center for Arts and Technology
North Bay Leadership Council
North Carolina Association of Workforce Development Boards (NCAWDB)
North Country Workforce Development Board
North Hennepin Community College
North Lawndale Employment Network
North Orange County Chamber
Northeast Iowa Community College
Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education (NOCHE)
Northern Wings
Northwest Oregon Works
NOVA Workforce Institute of Northeast Louisiana
NW Oregon Labor Council, AFL-CIO
NW Oregon Labor Council, AFL-CIO
NY Association of Training & Employment Professionals
NYC Employment and Training Coalition
OAI, Inc.
Oakland County Michigan Works!
Oakland County Michigan Works!
Oakland Literacy Council
Oakland Workforce Development Board
Oakmont Education
OGS Industries
Ohio Association for Career and Technical Education
Ohio Association of Career Technical Superintendents (OACTS)
Ohio Association of Comprehensive and Compact Career Technical Schools
Ohio Workforce Association
Onaway Community Chamber of Commerce
Oneill electric inc
OPEN M
Operation ABLE of Michigan
Opportunities Industrialization Center of Oklahoma County
Opportunity to Read - Watsonville Public Library
Oregon Coast Community College
Oregon Community College Association
Oregon Pacific Health Education Center
Oregon RAIN
Oregon Tradeswomen
Oregon Tradeswomen
Orion Area Chamber of Commerce
Ouachita Workforce Development Board
Ozark Literacy Council
PA CareerLink
PA Workforce Development Association
Palisades Park Library
Palm Beach State College
Partnership Gwinnett
Pathstream
Pearl Buck Center
Penn State College of Education
People inc.
Per Scholas, Inc.
Phalanx Family Services
Pickens County Adult Education
Piedmont Triad Regional Workforce Development Board
Pierpont Community and Technical College
Piscataquis Valley Adult Education Cooperative
Playworkz Learning Academy
Pleasanton Public Library
PODER
Polk State College
Port Jobs
Portland Community College
Portland OIC
Portland YouthBuilds
Potsdam Public Library
Precor
Private Industry Council
Pro Lingua Associates
Proactive Community Services
Progressive Alliance Community Development Corporation
Project for Pride in Living
ProLiteracy
ProMedica
Proteus Inc.
ProTrain, LLC
Providers' Council
Pueblo WorkforceCenter
Purpose and Destiny Family School Community Resource Network
Pyramid Partnership, Inc.
Quad County Urban League
R4 Workforce
READ Lakeland, Inc.
Read Muskegon
ReadWest Inc.
REDF
Region 10 Workforce Board
Regional Consolidated Services
Regional Office of Education #45
Research Allies for Lifelong Learning
RespectAbility
Restaurant Opportunities Centers United
Restore Education
Retired Adult Basic Educator/Workforce Trainer
Revolution Workshop
Rhodes Perry Consulting
Richland Community College
Rio Grande Valley Literacy Center
Rio South Texas Economic Council
Rivers East Workforce Development Board
Rocky Mountain Workforce Development Association
Rogue Workforce Partnership
Round Rock Chamber
Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce
SAD60 Noble Adult and Community Education
Salice America, Inc.
San Antonio College
San Benito County Workforce Development Board
San Bernardino Public Library - Jack L. Hill Lifelong Learning Center
San Diego Imperial Counties Regional Consortium
San Diego Workforce Partnership
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
San Joaquin County Building Trades Council
San Joaquin County Workforce Development
Santa Ana College
Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board
Santa Maria Community Services
Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corp.
Schoolcraft County Economic Development Corporation
Scottsdale Community College
SE Works, Inc.
Season to Taste, Inc
Seattle Jobs Initiative
SelectCobb
Self-Help Ventures Fund, an arm of Self-Help Credit Union
Seneca
SER Metro-Detroit, Jobs for Progress, Inc.
Serenity Farms, Inc
Sierra Adult School
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
Skills GAP Solutions LLC
Smooth Transitions LLC
Sonoma County Workforce Investment Board
Southern Arkansas University Tech
South Asheville Hotel Associates, LLC
South Bay Workforce Investment Board
South Central (PA) Workforce Development Board
South Central Tennessee Workforce Alliance, Adult Education
South Coast Literacy Council
South Puget Sound Community College
South Street Ministries
South Street Reentry
Southeast Community Services
Southeast Indiana Workforce Board
Southeast Kentucky Community & Technical College
Southeast Michigan Community Alliance
Southeastern Illinois College
Southwest Corner Workforce Development Board
Southwest Economic Solutions (SWSOLOrg)
Southwest Training Services, Inc.
Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board
Southwestern Planning Commission
SPELL Program at Hunter College
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning
St. Cloud State University
Stable Inc, LLC
Stark County Community Action Agency
Stark State College
STRIVE
Students With A Goal (SWAG)
Sugar River Valley Regional Technical CETner
SuperGenius Studio
Sutter Health
Swanson Group Inc.
Synthomer Foundation (formerly OMNOVA Solutions Foundation)
Systems Control
Tacoma Area Literacy Council
Technology Association of Oregon
Tecumseh Area Partnership, Inc.
Tennessee Association of Career and Technical Education
Texas Association of Workforce Boards
The ARC Mid Hudson
The Bromfield Inn
The Center for Employment Opportunities
The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia
The Community Outcomes Fund at Maycomb Capital
The Economic Progress Institute
The Education and Research Consortium of the Western Carolinas, Inc.
The Graduate! Network
The Gray House
The Greenville Literacy Association
The HANA Center
The House of the Lord
The International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit, Inc
The Learning Source
The Literacy Center
The Literacy Cooperative
The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon
The Tutorial Center
The Well Community Development Corporation
The Workforce Connection
Theodore Roosevelt High School
Third Sector Capital Partners
Thomas Jefferson Adult & Career Education @ PVCC
Thomas P. Miller and Associates
Thomas P. Miller and Associates
ToolingU-SME
Towards Employment
Tracy Chamber of Commerce
Trask and Associates
Tri County Jobs for Ohio's Graduates
Triangle South Literacy Works. Inc.
Triangle South Workforce Development Board
Trident Literacy Association
Tunxis Community College
Turlock Federation of Classified Employees Local 2424A
Turning Point Workforce Development Board
Umpqua Community College
Union-Snyder Community Action Agency
United Home Healthcare
United Migrant Opportunity Services/UMOS Inc.
United Way Greater Toledo
United Way of Central Iowa
United Way of Connecticut
United Way of Lane County
United Way Worldwide
United Ways of Texas
UNITE-LA
Upper Peninsula Construction Council
Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!
Upper Penninsula Building Trades Council
Upper Valley Career Center
Urban League Metropolitan St. Louis
Vadxx Energy
Valv-Trol Co.
Verdugo Workforce Development Board
Vernon Regional Adult Based Education
VocRehab Vermont
Waite Associates
Wake Forest Area Chamber of Commerce
Warren Village
Washington ACTE
Washington Literacy Center
Washington State Board for Community & Technical Colleges
Wayne State University/Another Chance
Weatherford College
Welcome Back Initiative
Welcoming America
Wenatchee High School
Wenatchee Valley College
Wendorf Services
Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce
West Michigan Works!
West Philadelphia Skills Initiative
Western Area Career & Technology Center
Western Indiana Workforce Development Board
Western Maryland Consortium
Western Maryland Consortium
Western Upper Penninsula Planning
Whatcom Literacy Council
Whitewater Adult Education
Will County Workforce Investment Board
Williamson, Inc.
Wilsonart, LLC
Witchita State University Tech
WNC Broadband Project
Women Employed
Worcester Community Action Council
Workforce Development Board Area 14
Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County
Workforce Development Board of Solano County
Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County
Workforce Solutions Collaborative of Metro Hartford
Workforce Solutions Group
WorkNet DuPage/DuPage County Workforce Development Division
WorkSource Cobb
WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Worksystems, the Portland Metro Workforce Development Board
World Education, Inc.
York Adult and Community Education
Youth Opportunities Unlimited
YouthBuild USA
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago
YWCA Tulsa, Immigrant and Refugee Services