



**NDD  
UNITED**

**JOB TRAINING**



**‘We’re already check-to-check,’ explains 27-year old Etim Obong, Jr., student at Focus Hope machinist training program, which is on an indefinite hold due to sequestration. ‘If they take something like this away, it’s not gonna be good for our society at all.’**

**[MICHIGAN PUBLIC RADIO, 5/22/13] MICHIGAN**

‘In a time when we could have had more cash in the economy by having the government be a spender, be a customer to the economy, we didn’t do that. In fact, we took more money out of the economy. For that reason, there’s just less job opportunities for everybody entering the job market after college,’ [Ben Rhiger, a 28-year-old warehouse worker in Portland, Ore] said. ‘It just decreased any opportunity of getting more work experience, learning a trade or skill on the job, while being able to support ourselves.’

**[NBC NEWS, 7/28/13] OREGON**

At National Able Network, of the 103,000 individuals who come through our doors each year in the Chicago area alone, requesting help, we are only able to enroll and serve 3,700 (4 percent) with current levels of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding. And the steady decline of funding—for more than a decade and counting—for lifeline programs such as WIA, the Senior Community Service Employment Program, and the Trade Adjustment Assistance program will only compound the challenges that our clients and communities across the nation face. – Grace Jenkins, President And Ceo Of The National Able Network, Inc.

**[RESPONSE TO NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION SURVEY] ILLINOIS**

We operate the only home care aide training program in the area. This 85 hour course prepares individuals for employment in this rapidly increasing job market. We work very closely with home care agencies who employ our graduates to assure they have a competent workforce. The statistics are clear that we are on the threshold of a major shortage of trained home care aides as the population ages and health care delivery becomes more community based. With 90 percent of our students

living below 150 percent of the poverty level, they cannot afford the \$700 fee for this training. Without WIA funding we will struggle to keep our home care aide job training program afloat. We would likely decrease the number of times we offer the class, thereby adding to the impending shortage of workers. – Community-Based Organization, Cincinnati, Oh

**[RESPONSE TO NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION SURVEY] OHIO**

Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) helped 1200 people start new jobs last year. One of our programs, San Francisco’s Healthcare Academy works closely with the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF), the largest employer in San Francisco, to train people coming off of welfare for administrative positions at UCSF. Close to 80 percent continue working at UCSF after the end of their internships. The demand for this program already exceeds capacity; we have 109 applications submitted for 20 training slots for a new training cycle beginning next month. If our funding is cut by sequestration, JVS would be forced to reduce or eliminate many of its services, like this program, that help people get back to work. – Abby Snay, Executive Director Of Jewish Vocational Services In San Francisco

**[RESPONSE TO NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION SURVEY] CALIFORNIA**

In 2010, more than 9 million individuals received WIA training and employment services, a 248 percent increase in participation rates in just two years. Despite skyrocketing demand for services, WIA programs would be forced to turn away nearly 300,000 adults, youth, and dislocated workers as a result of sequestration.

**[NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION, 2/2013]**



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: HELPING WORKERS, BUSINESSES, AND THE ECONOMY THRIVE

Workforce development is about investing in our nation's most valuable resource, its people, and ensuring that individuals at all skill levels have access to the education and training services they need to succeed in today's labor market. Businesses cannot grow and prosper without a skilled workforce, and it is a skilled workforce that will allow our nation to continue to lead the global economy into the 21st Century. Among other things, federal workforce development programs:

- ✂ Provide services such as adult basic education, occupational training or retraining, and labor market information and other employment services to help individuals get a job, keep a job, or get a better job.

- ✂ Help grow local and regional economies by working with industries to learn what their workforce needs are and aligning training programs to ensure workers have the necessary skills and credentials employers are looking for.

- ✂ Respond to large-scale economic dislocations—like plant closing or other mass-layoffs, or even natural disasters like Hurricane Sandy that result in significant job loss—to ensure workers and employers alike have the resources they need to limit economic hardships.

## CUTS HAVE CONSEQUENCES

Despite on-going high unemployment and underemployment rates,<sup>i</sup> funding for workforce development is just a tiny fraction of what the federal government spends annually. In fiscal year 2013, the federal government spent only 0.4 percent of its total budget on job training,<sup>ii</sup> less than 0.1 percent of our nation's overall economy.<sup>iii</sup>

Key workforce programs have lost more than \$1 billion in federal funding since just 2010,<sup>iv</sup> which has simply compounded years of disinvestment in these programs.<sup>vvi</sup> These cuts have impacted programs that serve a range of workers, including returning veterans, workers who lost their job during the recession, low-income seniors employed in community service jobs, and recent college graduates entering the labor market for the first time.

The majority of federal workforce development funding—for certain WIA programs, as much as 95 percent—flows directly to local communities, and many places rely disproportionately on federal funding to support employment and training programs (as compared to state or local funding).

Recent surveys by National Skills Coalition and the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals<sup>vii</sup> show the real consequences of these cuts.

The stories from real people featured in this chapter demonstrate the ways in which often very deep federal workforce development funding cuts impact local

## FEDERAL ROLE: Key Employment and Training Programs

**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA)** provides employment and training services to youth, low-income adults, and dislocated workers through the American Job Center network, the nation's principle workforce development system.

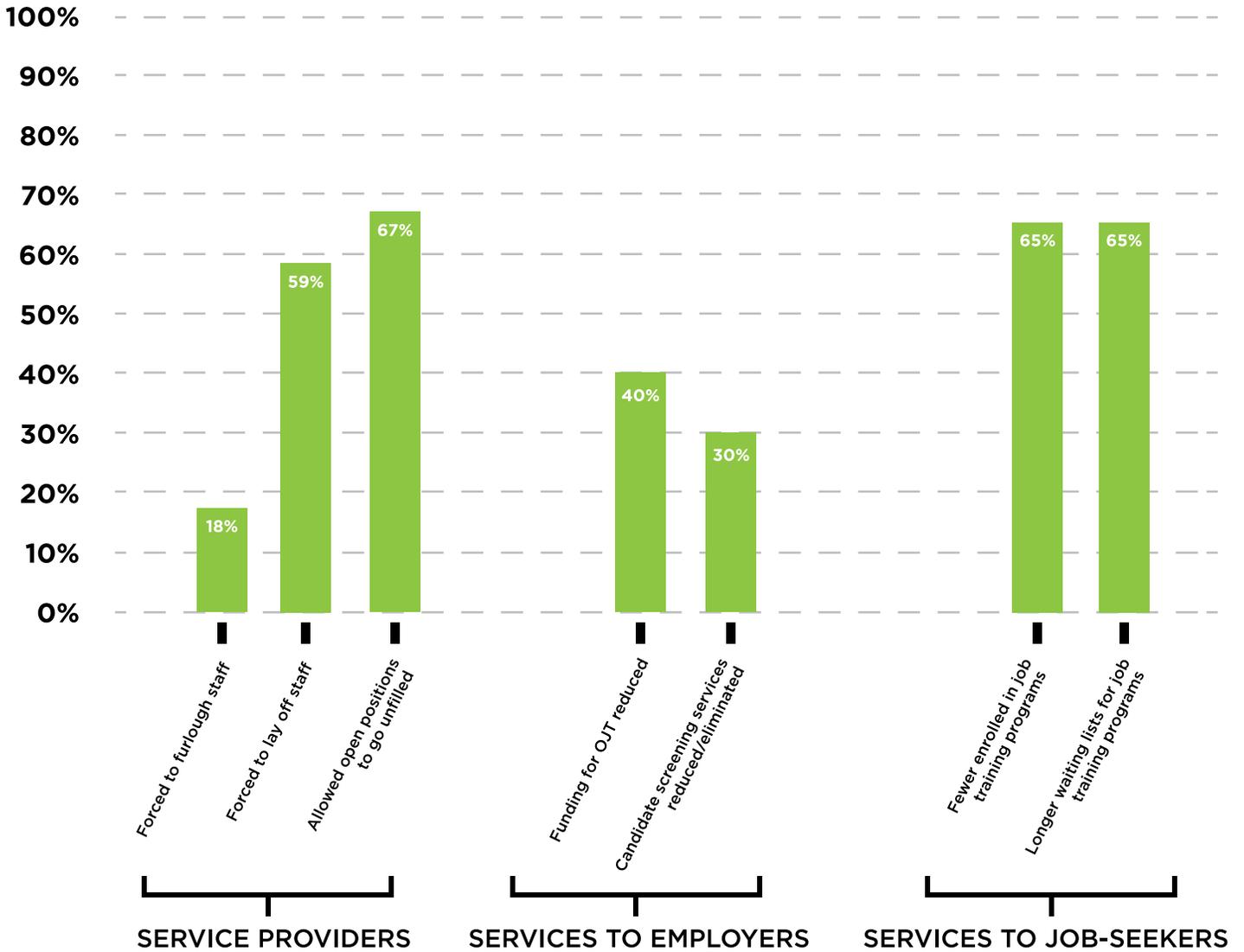
**ADULT BASIC EDUCATION (ABE)** helps adults get the basic skills—such as reading, writing, math, English language competency, and problem-solving—they need to be productive workers, family members, and citizens.

**CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)** integrates academic and technical curriculum, and provides work-based learning opportunities, so students have the work-related skills necessary to succeed in postsecondary education, training, and employment.

**VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (VR)** helps individuals with disabilities, including those with significant disabilities, achieve employment outcomes consistent with their strengths, interests, and abilities.

**WAGNER-PEYSER EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (ES)** provides job search assistance, job referral, and placement assistance for job seekers, re-employment services to unemployment insurance claimants, and recruitment services to employers with job openings.

# CONSEQUENCES OF CUTS



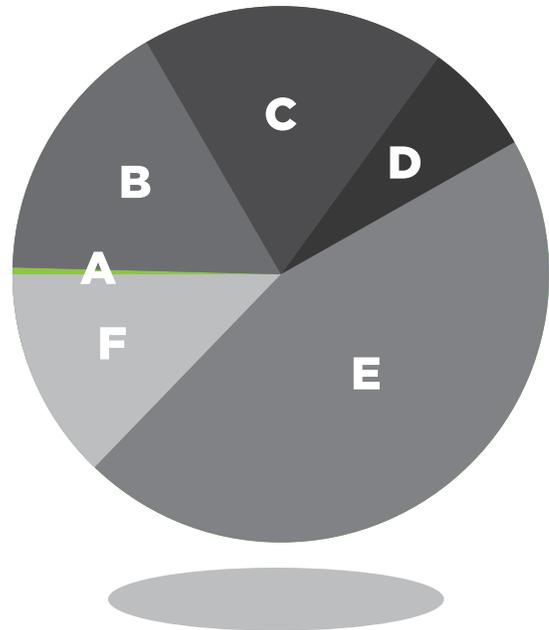
communities across the country. With our nation's labor market still struggling to recover from the Great Recession, these stories make clear the impact of funding cuts on jobseekers and employers alike.



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# JOB TRAINING OUTLAYS AS A PERCENT OF ALL FEDERAL SPENDING, FY 2013

CATEGORY	2013
A) JOB TRAINING	0.42%
B) OTHER NDD	16.48%
C) DEFENSE DISCRETIONARY	18.20%
D) NET INTEREST PAYMENTS	6.45%
E) SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, MEDICAID	45.73%
F) OTHER ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS	12.72%



Source: CBO May 2013 Baseline

In 2010, more than 9 million individuals received WIA training and employment services, a 248 percent increase in participation rates in just two years. Despite skyrocketing demand for services, WIA programs would be forced to turn away nearly 300,000 adults, youth, and dislocated workers as a result of sequestration.

According to Michael K. Holmes, Executive Director, St. Louis County Workforce Investment Board:

*Cuts to [WIA] funding means limited training opportunities for job seekers, which in turn means a smaller pool of skilled workers for St. Louis businesses and industry. The talent and skills needed for occupations such as nursing, advanced manufacturing, transportation and a variety of other in-demand jobs in the St. Louis metropolitan area are in short supply. Without retraining of our out-of-work citizens, we are not going to have the supply for the demand of our areas businesses. We are all struggling and taking away opportunities from our customers is not good for business and not good for our region.*

## SOURCES

i The unemployment rate was 7.3% in August 2013, while the underemployment rate (the more comprehensive BLS U-6 measure) was 13.7% in August 2013.

ii Based on calculations by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

iii "National Income and Product Accounts, Gross Domestic Product, 2nd quarter 2013 (second estimate); Corporate Profits, 2nd quarter 2013 (preliminary estimate)." U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, August 29, 2013 (available at <http://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/national/gdp/gdpnewsrelease.htm>)

iv "Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Appropriations for Job Training and Education: Funding Analysis of Key Discretionary Programs Under U.S. Depts. Of Labor and Education." National Skills Coalition, May 2013 (available at <http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/about/summit/2013-summit/2013-materials/fy-2013-approps-chart.pdf>)

v "Not Ready to Compete: Declining federal investment in a skilled, competitive U.S. workforce 2002-2007." National Skills Coalition (previously The Workforce Alliance), 2008 (available at [http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/federal-policies/federal-funding/federal-funding-documents/twa\\_notreadytocompete\\_2007-02-05.pdf](http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/federal-policies/federal-funding/federal-funding-documents/twa_notreadytocompete_2007-02-05.pdf)).

vi This \$1 billion figure is based on cuts to a selected set of key workforce development programs under the Departments of Labor (DOL) and Education (DOEd), and as a result understates the total cuts—about 12 percent—to DOL and DOEd since 2010. It is important to note that the pie figures in the previous paragraph use a slightly broader definition (which includes non "key" programs); under this broader aggregate category, funding cuts have been about 16 percent since 2010.

vii [http://www.nawdp.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Did\\_You\\_Know1&template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=4926](http://www.nawdp.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Did_You_Know1&template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=4926)



# BUDGET CUTS MEAN LOST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE SEEKING WORK

FEATURING: Focus: HOPE, Detroit Michigan

## MATCHING WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS TO REBUILD DETROIT

A chance meeting on a bus put Deangelo Simpkin, 25, on a path to a career and financial stability.

Deangelo met Judith, a Focus: HOPE employee, as both were traveling by bus to Chicago. Brantley offered to assist Deangelo with his resume and job search. Before long, Deangelo had two job interviews and decided to enroll in Focus: HOPE's "Earn & Learn" program, which provided him with four weeks of job-readiness training. Now, he's earning a great wage as a laborer and plans to pursue additional training to become a licensed electrician.

A few weeks later, Deangelo was hired into a seasonal job with Greening of Detroit, a nonprofit resource agency that supports efforts to improve the ecosystem in Detroit. As that job was ending, he interviewed for a permanent job as a construction laborer with O'Brien Edwards Construction. Now, he's earning a great wage as a laborer and plans to pursue additional training to become a licensed electrician.

## HELPING PEOPLE ON PATH TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Focus: HOPE largely serves low-income, minority individuals and families on their path to becoming self-sufficient. Focus: HOPE's workforce development and education programs primarily serve adults (18+ years of age) and include:

 **The Machinist Training Institute (MTI)** trains individuals to become certified

 **Computer Numerical Control (CNC)** Machinists. Between 70 and 80 percent of graduates are placed into a job within three months of graduation.

 **The Information Technologies Center (ITC)** trains people for careers in information technology through programs that lead to several certifications. Some graduates continue on to the bachelor's degree program.

 **The Center for Advanced Technologies (CAT)** supports minority students in engineering degree programs, beginning with their preparedness for postsecondary studies.

 **Earn and Learn** is a four-week program specifically targeting young adult men living in Detroit, the long-term or "structurally unemployed" population, and ex-offenders in need of work skills and experience. Following the program, graduates are entered into subsidized employment and provided funding for further postsecondary education and training.

Once a 24-week long program, the MTI program was cut back to 12 weeks. The additional skills that are gained in the 24-week program translate to higher wages, better job security, and lower cost to the public over time. Currently, there is a wait list to be accepted.

At its peak, CAT enrolled 140 students. Now there are only 36 and a wait list. Even though job growth in the IT field is expected to grow faster than any other sector, ITC is only able to run shorter-length programs, such as the Customer Service Support (CSS) and Technical Support Specialist (TSS), due to Workforce Investment Act cuts.

Programs that require more than a year of training for certification-- and have correspondingly higher salaries--are no longer enrolling new participants. Earn and Learn, the program that helped Deangelo secure employment, and could serve more than 700 students in the fall of 2013, will likely be discontinued unless other sources of funding are secured.

Two-thirds of the way through the fiscal year, the organization is down 160 WIA-funded training spots. At the current pace, 250 to 350 students will miss out on job training.

## FEDERAL CUTS TAKE HOPE AWAY

Middle-skill jobs, which require more than high school but not a four-year degree, make up 50 percent of all jobs in Michigan, but only 45 percent of Michigan workers have the appropriate training for these jobs. Investments in programs offered by Focus: HOPE help close this skills gap and provide the skilled workers that employers need.

However, since FY 2012, federal employment and job training funds for Focus: HOPE has been cut by more than \$5 million.

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*Due to federal cuts, the program that helped Deangelo secure employment will likely be discontinued.*

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## **AUTHORS**

National Skills Coalition



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# CUTS TO WORKFORCE INVESTMENT PROGRAMS LIMIT SKILL-BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

FEATURING: The Lane Workforce Partnership, Lane County, Oregon

## A PATH FORWARD FOR UNEMPLOYED

Like many residents in Lane County, Oregon, where unemployment is 7.6 percent as of April 2013, Scott Raney had been unemployed for too long and was having trouble finding work. Then a career advisor at Lane Workforce Partnership pinpointed skill sets Scott had been overlooking. The advisor referred him to Arcimoto, a recently launched, Eugene-based company building two-seat, three-wheeled electric vehicles, looking to hire new designers.

Scott had some previous experience in the design program used by Arcimoto, but he needed additional training to hone his skills. The company hired him through On-the-Job-Training (OJT) program, enabling Scott to work and earn income while gaining these necessary skills. Scott is now creating 3-D Computer-Aided Design drawings and producing blueprints for the production of electric cars. He credits Lane Workforce Partnership for seeing his potential and helping him to gain the skills to obtain fulfilling and gainful employment.

## CONNECTING BUSINESSES AND SKILLED EMPLOYEES

Lane Workforce Partnership is a business-led workforce development organization dedicated to meeting the skill needs of employers and to helping individuals gain the knowledge and skills to find a first, new, or better job. The Partnership provides services to businesses and jobseekers through its workforce delivery system, WorkSource Lane.

For businesses, WorkSource Lane recruits, screens, tests, and refers applicants to businesses seeking to fill positions;

provides rapid response to businesses facing layoffs and closures; and provides workforce information and statistics. For jobseekers, WorkSource Lane provides job readiness training including resume writing, skills assessments, computer classes, OJT, vouchers to purchase skills training, and job search assistance, as well as access to community resources and additional professional development opportunities.

## BUDGET CUTS LIMIT SKILL-BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

Middle-skill jobs, which require more than high school but not a four-year degree, make up 49 percent of all jobs in Oregon, but only 43 percent of Oregon workers have the appropriate training for these jobs. Investments in programs offered by Lane Workforce Partnership help close this skills gap and provide skilled workers that employers need.

Unfortunately, these investments in the Lane County workforce are at risk. Over the last three years, the Lane Workforce Partnership has seen a 14.5 percent reduction in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) youth funds, resulting in a 30 percent reduction in the number of low-income youth receiving workforce development services, including internships and paid work experience.

The Partnership has also seen a 13.7 percent reduction in WIA adult funding and 27.6 percent reduction for dislocated workers. As a result, the number of vouchers available to jobseekers for skills training has fallen from 160 to 43 and OJT opportunities are down from 101 to 63. Staff reductions have impacted the accessibility of career navigation and counseling services.

Due to sequestration, Lane Workforce Partnership faces a further cut of 11.5 percent to WIA funding, resulting in scaled back programming. For example, training scholarships will be further reduced from 63 to 43, two career advising positions will be eliminated, and workforce services at a satellite office at Lane Community College will be discontinued.

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*Scott is now a designer at Arcimoto creating 3-D Computer-Aided Design drawings and producing blueprints for the production of electric cars.*

*Over the past three years the number of vouchers available to jobseekers for skills training has fallen from 160 to 43, and On-the-Job Training opportunities are down from 101 to 63.*

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## **AUTHORS**

National Skills Coalition



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# BUDGET CUTS CLOSE DOORS ON PRE-APPRENTICESHIPS, SLOW ECONOMIC GROWTH

FEATURING: Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board, Cincinnati, Ohio

## CLOSING THE SKILLS GAP

In February, the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) and the Greater Cincinnati Building and Construction Trades Councils held a Construction Apprenticeship Fair. Mareo Akins, Thomas Davis, Deonte Freeman, and Antonio Renato, who had graduated from a pre-apprenticeship program at the Cincinnati Labor Agency for Social Services, were well-positioned to sign up for an apprenticeship that day.

For those whose math and reading skills do not meet the minimum standards for apprenticeships or need other work readiness training, pre-apprenticeship programs like these help bridge that gap. Held over six weeks, the program included 32 hours of soft skills training and 40 hours of math. Deonte has been accepted into a Sheet Metal Workers apprenticeship, Mareo into a Laborers apprenticeship, Antonio into the Iron Workers, and Thomas into Bricklayers. These paid apprenticeships will put these men on a path to a well-paying career in the construction trades.

Ohio, like many states, is experiencing a skills gap for workers at the middle-skill level: jobs that require training beyond high school but not a four-year degree. Without funding for programs like pre-apprenticeships, the middle-skill gap will be closed and businesses will not be able to grow. In addition, area residents will be left without opportunities to embark on a family supporting career path.

SWORWIB oversees the policy and funding for the public workforce system in Cincinnati and Hamilton County. This includes Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding of the One-Stop job center called the SuperJobs Center, employer services, and services to dislocated workers, low-income adults, and youth.

Services include job-readiness workshops and career coaching, providing vouchers

for individuals to use toward job training programs, On-The-Job Training (OJT), veteran services, and rapid response assistance in instances of company closures and layoff. The SWORWIB contracts with non-profits that work with at-risk and disadvantaged youth from the ages of 16-21. Services include college planning, mentoring services, career guidance, work experience, summer jobs, full-time job placement, GED tutoring, drop-out recovery, and many others.

The SWORWIB also provides four employer-driven career pathways that include career health care, construction, advanced manufacturing, and information technology. These pathways have offered services and training to thousands of displaced, low-income and incumbent workers that have led to thousands of job placements.

In addition, SuperJobs offers services to employers ranging from posting jobs to coordinating hiring events and job fairs to screening candidates. From July 1, 2012 through May 21, 2013, SuperJobs has worked with more than 250 employers more than once.

## FEDERAL FUNDING CUTS LIMIT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SKILL SEEKERS

Middle-skill jobs, which require more than high school but not a four-year degree, make up 51 percent of all jobs in Ohio, but only 48 percent of Ohio workers have the appropriate training for these jobs. Investments in programs like those offered by SWORWIB help close this skills gap and provide the skilled workers that employers need.

Due to funding cuts over the past three years, Cincinnati/Hamilton County has reduced the services to employers and jobseekers by cutting staff at the SuperJobs Center, delaying overdue updates to the resource room computers,

closing two satellite one-stop centers, and eliminating late hours. Limited WIA Youth funds have resulted in the closure of the summer youth employment program since 2009.

The cuts have also impacted the services SuperJobs staff can provide for employers. The SuperJobs Center used to have business service staffers devoted to industry sectors that assisted with candidate screening, but has discontinued this service except in rare instances.

As a result of sequestration, the SuperJobs Center will receive a 26 percent cut to its budget. Contracted youth services providers will also be cut by approximately 15 percent. All training for jobseekers has been suspended - services that help to bridge the gap between unemployment and a job will be cut back, youth services will be reduced, and there will be significant staff reductions.

These cuts will have a significant impact. During fiscal year 2012-2013, SuperJobs provided services to more than 5,000 jobseekers and more than 250 employers. Many of those jobseekers took advantage of job readiness classes, such as searching online for jobs or developing a strong resume. Some were eligible to take short-term skills training for in-demand jobs. During that time, staff helped 665 low-income adult and displaced workers find jobs.

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*Without funding for programs like pre-apprenticeships, the middle-skill gap will keep businesses from growing and local residents from securing family supporting jobs.*

*As a result of sequestration, all training for jobseekers has been suspended.*

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## **AUTHORS**

National Skills Coalition



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# CAREER PATHWAY INITIATIVE HELPS MOTHER AND LOCAL HOSPITAL

National Park Community College Career Pathways Program, Hot Springs, Arkansas

## FACILITATING EDUCATION FOR NEW CAREER PATHS

As a newly-single mother of five, Anna needed to make some changes to support her family. She went back to school, enrolling at National Park Community College (NPCC), stopped homeschooling her children, and enrolled them in public school.

Her youngest child, however, was not old enough for full school days, and Anna struggled to find adequate and affordable child care services that would allow her to continue her education.

During her first semester at NPCC, Anna learned about the Career Pathways program, which helped pay for the child care services she needed, assisted with travel expenses, and provided technology services and supportive career counselors – allowing Anna to stay in school and continue working toward a degree.

After her first semester, Anna was accepted into the RN program. She graduated from NPCC in 2012 with an associate's degree and is now a registered nurse in the cardiac unit at Mercy Hospital in Hot Springs. In 2014, Anna plans to pursue her bachelor's degree in nursing at Arkansas State University.

## CLOSING THE SKILLS GAP

The fourth largest community college in Arkansas, NPCC enrolls approximately 4,000 credit students per semester and more than 2,000 students each year in a wide range of non-credit and continuing education programs.

NPCC also implements the Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative (CPI), funded with Temporary Assistance for

Needy Families (TANF) funds from the Department of Workforce Services (DWS), which moves low-income parents from government assistance to employment through education. As of this year, 94.5 percent of 2011 NPCC CPI graduates are employed.

Middle-skill jobs, which require more than high school but not a four-year degree, make up 57 percent of all jobs in Arkansas, but only 49 percent of Arkansas workers have the appropriate training for these jobs. Investments in programs like the Arkansas CPI help close this skills gap and provide the skilled workers that employers need.

## UNABLE TO MEET GROWING DEMAND

TANF funding for CPI, with 25 sites including all two-year Arkansas colleges, has been slashed statewide from \$34 million to \$7 million over the past three years. As a result, staff positions have been reduced to nine months from twelve. New employees are not hired to fill vacancies.

Even though the program has seen a more than 50 percent increase in demand, with a growing wait list, CPI is no longer able to accept new students— with the exception of current Temporary Employment Assistance (TEA) clients receiving cash assistance. CPI managers have been told to anticipate additional cuts by the end of 2014, which will lead to additional cuts in services to low-income students.

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*Because federal funding for the Arkansas CPI has been cut from \$34 million to \$7 million over the past three years, the program is no longer able to accept most new students despite a 50 percent increase in demand.*

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## **AUTHORS**

National Skills Coalition



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# NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND EMPLOYERS, WORKERS AND ECONOMY LOSE WITH SEQUESTRATION

FEATURING: Goodwill Industries of Northern New England, Portland, Maine

## HARD TIME AHEAD FOR NEW ENGLAND WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS

Headquartered in Portland, Maine, Goodwill Industries of Northern New England (GoodwillNNE) serves Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. It has an 80-year history of providing innovative services that eliminate barriers to opportunity and help people in need reach their fullest potential through the power of work. Last year, the organization served more than 30,000 individuals through job training and placement, career counseling, youth employment opportunities, brain injury programs and other community support services for people with disabilities. GoodwillNNE's job training and placement programs are funded through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

GoodwillNNE has taken a big blow to its budget due to sequestration. In the fiscal quarter running from July 1 through September 30, GoodwillNNE received only \$95,457, almost 90 percent less than the \$887,577 in federal funds it was expecting.

These cuts have been extremely difficult because it hinders GoodwillNNE's ability to support people for fall semester training and education programs. GoodwillNNE has not been able to implement any new training programs for clients because there are no funds available to pay tuition that was due September 1. In some cases, it is unclear if these clients will be able to enroll at a later date. This has left clients unable to complete certifications or their degrees, and thus indefinitely unable to find employment.

We don't yet know the long lasting impacts of these cuts, but significant and immediate cuts have already negatively impacted the local economy. Internally, GoodwillNNE reduced staffing due to sequestration cuts. Programmatically, due to reduction in funding for On-the-Job-Training (OJT), local businesses on the cusp of expanding their workforce have been forced to step back and leave jobs unfilled because GoodwillNNE does not have the funding to place clients in jobs. Instead of increasing employment opportunities, GoodwillNNE has been forced to deny training assistance to new clients.

## WORKERS STRANDED, JOBS GO UNFULFILLED

Sequestration cuts are hurting workers and businesses in northern New England. Without the training support that GoodwillNNE provides, good-paying jobs will go unfilled causing workers to stay unemployed or stuck in a low-wage, low-skill jobs and local industries unable to find the workers that allow them to grow. Here are sequestration:

- ✘ Deering Lumber, Inc. in Biddeford was considering hiring a gentleman if GoodwillNNE could provide OJT funds to help support Deering's labor costs. No OJT funds are available due to sequestration. The gentleman was not hired and the position at Deering Lumber remains unfilled.
- ✘ A gentleman in Rockland planned to begin the Basic Safety Training and Able Bodied Seaman courses to become a more marketable employee. GoodwillNNE had to refuse his request for tuition assistance due to sequestration cuts, and now the client cannot continue his education.

- ✘ A dislocated worker has recently been laid off from an information technology (IT) management role. This client has more than 20 years of experience in IT and management but no credential certifying these skills. The client wants to complete a project management certification or other industry-based credential to find quality employment. Unfortunately, GoodwillNNE does not have the funds to assist him in securing the certifications he needs to get a good-paying, steady job.
- ✘ A young mother with two small children is eager to begin certified nursing assistant or CNA training this fall, but can only do it with assistance from the federal funds cut by sequestration that GoodwillNNE receives.

- ✘ A displaced worker is dependent on her car to travel to her per diem job at Nordx, as well as her volunteer position. Both of these positions are very important to build her work experience and skills to become more marketable for full-time positions. However, her car needs repairs before it can be inspected and with sequestration cuts, GoodwillNNE is unable to provide her the \$1,000 needed to ensure she has reliable transportation.

Unfortunately, GoodwillNNE was unable to assist these clients and many more because of the drastic funding cuts from sequestration. These people will not get the training they need for a good paying job, and employers looking for skilled workers to grow their business will not get the skilled workers they need. Policymakers in Washington say they are concerned about the unemployment rate in America. Yet, their austerity actions speak louder than words.



## AUTHORS

Goodwill



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# ELIMINATION OF AMERICORPS GRANT LEAVES STUDENTS STRANDED

FEATURING: Washington Reading Corps, Seattle, Washington

## IMPROVING LITERACY THROUGH PUBLIC SERVICE

AmeriCorps engages more than 80,000 Americans in intensive service each year at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. Since the program's founding in 1994, more than 800,000 AmeriCorps members have contributed more than 1 billion hours in service across America while tackling pressing problems and mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve. AmeriCorps benefits are two-fold, as the volunteers themselves receive valuable, real-world career training and the communities benefit from the critical services they provide.

Washington Reading Corps (WRC) is a longstanding, successful statewide AmeriCorps program designed to provide intense, research-based tutoring services to struggling readers in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. An effective collaboration among schools, families, community members, AmeriCorps, local businesses and state partners, WRC has received competitively awarded grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) since the program's inception in 1998. Since then, WRC AmeriCorps members have been serving in elementary schools and early learning sites throughout Washington, where the average rate of student participation in the free and reduced price lunch program is 60 percent or higher.

Trained WRC AmeriCorps members provide direct service to preschool children to develop early literacy skills, oral language, and kindergarten readiness. They build capacity and sustainability by improving parent and family engagement through outreach and education services for families with young children. WRC AmeriCorps members also recruit and train thousands of community volunteers to tutor struggling students, and engage students in peer-to-peer tutoring

opportunities. In many WRC schools, this is the only literacy intervention program available to struggling readers.

## WIDESPREAD IMPACT

Since the program's creation, the footprint of WRC AmeriCorps members has grown throughout the state. During the 2012-2013 school year, 260 WRC AmeriCorps members served as trained literacy tutors in over 130 educational facilities. These AmeriCorps members worked with more than 8,000 students across 28 early learning centers, 99 elementary schools, and four middle schools. They brought much-needed people power to schools in both urban and rural communities, and leveraged more than 47,500 hours of service over the course of the school year by recruiting more than 3,500 community volunteers.

The impact of WRC on both the students served and the individuals who serve is clear. During the 2012-2013 school year, 58 percent of students who completed the WRC program met performance benchmarks or advanced at least one grade level in literacy skills while 50 percent demonstrated improved reading behaviors as observed by their classroom teachers. The young Americans who served as WRC AmeriCorps members gained valuable job skills and experience, and earned more than \$1 million in education awards that can be used to pursue future higher education or to pay off existing, qualified student loans.

WRC AmeriCorps members also have a significant impact on the Washington economy: in the 2011-2012 program year, 52 percent of WRC AmeriCorps members report using their education award within Washington state; 96 percent report gaining career development skills during their service year; 44 percent will go onto pursue a career in education; and 90 percent will continue volunteering in their community after their service year.

## BUDGET CUTS DENY STUDENTS, DEVASTATE COMMUNITY

Since fiscal year 2010, the CNCS budget has been cut by 13 percent and nearly 15,000 AmeriCorps positions have been eliminated. AmeriCorps members are human capital deployed to support tens of thousands of schools, afterschool centers, food banks, homeless shelters, community health clinics, youth centers, and veterans' service facilities at a time of strong demand for services. The reduction in AmeriCorps has had a devastating impact on the nonprofit sector where respected organizations rely on these members to expand their reach through direct service and by mobilizing additional community volunteers.

These cuts, including sequestration, have hit WRC hard. Despite a 15-year history of strong results and notable impact in local communities throughout the state, WRC's AmeriCorps grant was not renewed in fiscal year 2013. The complete loss of \$3.2 million in federal support was the direct result of funding cuts to CNCS and the AmeriCorps state and national program. This has led to the dismantling of the administrative infrastructure of the program, and will dramatically reduce the scope of the program and its impact in the coming year.

For the 2013-2014 school year, the force of enthusiastic and dedicated WRC AmeriCorps members will shrink from 260 members to only 56 members. The number of students the program is able to serve will be reduced from more than 8,000 students to fewer than 2,000 students. Twenty-two early learning centers, 68 elementary schools, and four middle schools will lose the support of WRC AmeriCorps members, altogether. Across the state, host organizations who have been working with WRC for more than 15 years have been forced

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*The ending of reading corps is going to leave a huge gap. So many kids are now going to fall through the cracks.*

- WASHINGTON READING CORPS VOLUNTEER

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to eliminate their tutoring services and family literacy events, because of these devastating cuts.

The reaction from local community members to the news that WRC partnerships were ending has been strong:

✖ “This is devastating news. I served as a (WRC AmeriCorps) member for three years. The ending of reading corps is going to leave a huge gap. So many kids are now going to fall through the cracks.”

✖ “Very sad indeed! Not only will the schools and children feel a loss, but so will the entire community. WRC places energetic, caring adults into schools to help out where it is needed most. From that crop of members every year are individuals who will stay in the community to be teachers, social workers, and volunteers. Northwest Washington has benefited exponentially from this talent.”

✖ “This decision needs to be revisited. Our daughter was fortunate to work with the program for two years and if not for that experience, would not have met and worked alongside a wonderful group of people who were willing to give their time, efforts and

skills, for very little compensation, in order to improve upon the lives of so many kids. A very worthwhile program that served many in a very positive way.”

## AUTHORS

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