Congress should support education and training pathways for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) participants

The U.S. has a middle-skill gap
Middle-skill jobs — jobs that require more than a high school diploma but not a four-year degree — make up 54% of jobs in the U.S. economy. But only 44% of U.S. workers are trained at the middle-skill level.


TANF participants need pathways to middle skill credentials
The gap is even starker for TANF recipients — fewer than 8% have any postsecondary education. Creating training and educational pathways will help TANF recipients get the skills they need to transition to family supporting jobs.

Source: Administration for Children & Families, TANF and MOE Spending and Transfers by Activity, FY 2014.

These pathways are blocked by current training restrictions
TANF severely limits participation in education and training for recipients. As a result, less than 7% of TANF funds go to work-related activities. Congress should help states use TANF dollars to support high quality training by lifting these restrictions.

Source: Administration for Children & Families, TANF and MOE Spending and Transfers by Activity, FY 2014.

Sign a Dear Colleague letter calling for current restrictions on TANF skills training to be lifted.

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