



Invest in America's Workforce: We Can't Compete if We Cut

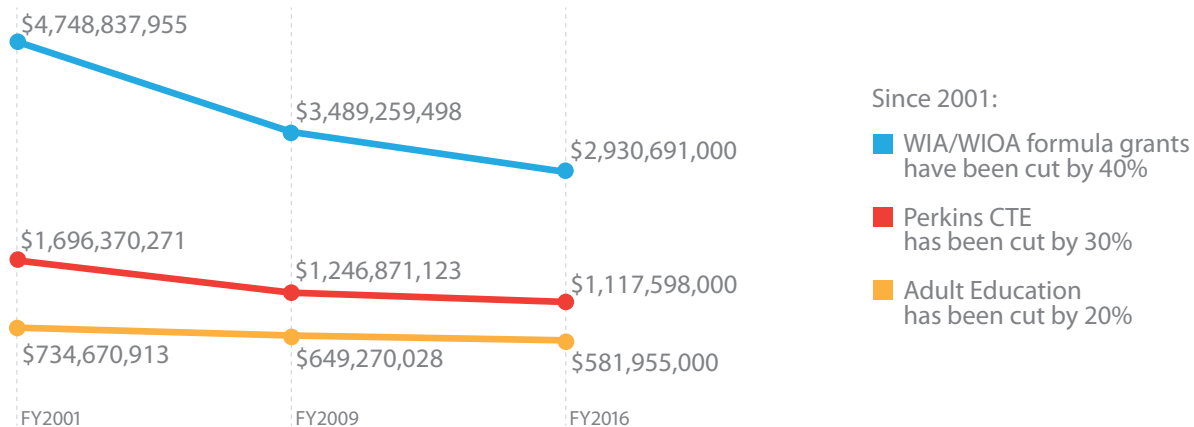
MIDDLE-SKILL JOBS – those requiring more than a high school diploma, but not a four-year degree – make up 53 percent of today's labor market, but only 43 percent of U.S. workers are trained at the middle-skill level. That leaves businesses struggling to find workers with appropriate skills, and leaves workers without meaningful pathways to better-paying jobs. Congress must sustain critical investments in workforce and education.

Congress should:

 **INVEST IN WORKFORCE PROGRAMS.** In 2014, Congress overwhelmingly approved the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, modernizing our workforce system and making it more responsive to industry. But state grants have been cut by 16 percent since FY 2009, and by 38 percent since FY 2001. **We can't compete if we keep cutting.**

 **INVEST IN CTE PROGRAMS.** Congress is poised to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Act, which funds secondary and postsecondary CTE programs and prepares our workforce of tomorrow. But funding for Perkins has been cut by 20 percent since 2009, and by 32 percent since 2001. **We can't compete if we keep cutting.**

 **INVEST IN ADULT EDUCATION.** There are more than 32 million Americans with low basic skills, including 24 million who are currently in the workforce. But funding for adult education has been cut by 6 percent since 2009, and by 21 percent since 2001. **We can't compete if we keep cutting.**



Source: NSC analysis; all totals adjusted for inflation

**ACT
NOW!**

**Invest in America.
Invest in our workforce.
We can't compete if we cut.**