Congress should invest in adult basic education

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.


36 million lack the foundational skills to succeed in middle-skill training, jobs

36 million U.S. adults — including 24 million currently in the workforce — lack the foundational literacy and numeracy skills to enter middle-skill training and obtain well-paying jobs. This contributes to income inequality and hurts business productivity. But we’re only serving a fraction of the need in federally-funded adult education programs.


Federal funding for adult education has declined by 17% in the past 6 years

Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Title II) funding dropped from $682 million in federal fiscal year 2010 to just $569 million in FY2015. We need to make sure U.S. workers have the foundational skills to succeed in training, and obtain well-paying jobs.


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