



Increased Funding for Career and Technical Education

Chronic workforce shortages remain the top challenge facing roofing industry employers as demographic trends make it increasingly difficult to find qualified candidates for well-paying, family-sustaining jobs. Greater investment in career and technical education is essential to providing strategies and tools to help employers address workforce development needs.

As Congress considers federal appropriations for fiscal year 2022, the roofing industry supports increased funding for Perkins Career and Technical Education State Grants, which provide resources for CTE programs operated at the state and local levels. This funding is critical to high schools, community colleges, small businesses and students who need training to help close the skills gap in the workforce.

The roofing industry advocated for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act during the inaugural Roofing Day in D.C. in 2018 and was pleased to see the bill enacted into law later that year. It's vital Congress provide sufficient funding for implementation of the new law to enable employers to meet their workforce needs through expanded CTE programs.

Unfortunately, during the past decade, appropriations for CTE have not kept pace with growing demand in a rapidly changing economy, and funding for Perkins State Grants has not even kept pace with inflation. Further, the amount of federal funding dedicated to CTE pales in comparison with funding provided for attendance at four-year colleges though about 40% of students enrolled in these institutions fail to obtain a degree, according to educationdata.org. Congress should dramatically increase investments in CTE. Failure to do so will negatively affect students who are striving to obtain the skills needed to succeed in the current economy. This is even more true today given recent economic trends that have only been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

CTE provides access to opportunities for students who want to develop skills and contribute to their communities by pursuing rewarding careers. The roofing industry appreciates the increase in funding for Perkins State Grants provided during the previous year, bringing total funding to \$1.3 billion, and now urges Congress to provide robust funding in fiscal year 2022 for this critical need. Increased investments in Perkins State Grants are essential to providing employers and employees with the resources needed to close the skills gap and get the economy back to full employment.

Request: Support robust funding for Perkins Career and Technical Education State Grants for fiscal year 2022 to help address the roofing industry's workforce needs.

Questions? Contact NRCA's Washington, D.C., office at (202) 546-7584 or (800) 338-5765.



Thanks to our

ROOFING DAY IN D.C.

sponsors.*

2021

We couldn't do it without you!



*AS OF 3/4/2021

Register now at nrca.net/roofingday

#RoofingDayinDC

