

Trump Infrastructure Plan: Workforce Development

President Trump's infrastructure plan puts forth several reforms to address workforce development needs that could help the construction industry. Those some of proposals include:

- **Expand Pell Grant Eligibility**
 - **What are Pell Grants?:** Pell Grants are federal education subsidies for students and, unlike a loan, they do not have to be repaid. These grants are generally available only to students who do not yet have a bachelor's degree and who are enrolled in institutions of higher education offering degree programs of at least 600 clock hours or 15 weeks in length.
 - **What's the Problem?:** Pell Grants are not available for individuals pursuing shorter-term certifications, including persons who are in skilled trades and who are achieving certifications as part of an apprenticeship program. Such a restriction can be a barrier to entry for those seeking a career in the construction industry.
 - **Trump Plan:** Expand Pell Grant eligibility to high-quality, short-term programs to allow individuals to use them to pay for short-term programs that lead to a credential or certification in an in-demand field.
- **Reform Career and Technical Education**
 - **What's the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program?:** The CTE Program is a principal source of federal funding to states and discretionary grantees for the improvement of secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs across the nation. The purpose of the Act is to develop more fully the academic, career, and technical skills of secondary and postsecondary students who elect to enroll in career and technical education programs.
 - **What's the Problem?:** CTE funds are spread thinly and support a broad, fragmented range of activities, many of which are unlikely to improve student outcomes and are often not aligned to local workforce needs. Too often, CTE programs do not successfully prepare students for jobs in high-demand fields or local industries.
 - **Trump Plan:** Calls on Congress to enact a modified version of the Perkins CTE reauthorization bill passed by the House in June 2017 (H.R. 2353). The plan specifically calls for amendments to that legislation, including:
 - Directing the majority of funding to high schools to promote strategies such as apprenticeship, work-based learning, and dual-enrollment;
 - Authorizing activities to promote and expand apprenticeships;
 - Increasing high-quality CTE programs in high schools by promoting STEMCTE offerings and other offerings related to in-demand industry sectors;
 - Allowing States to pool funds to support regional centers and consortia that support multiple districts in partnership with local businesses and other community stakeholders; and
 - Authorizing funding for fast-track programs that prepare high school graduates for jobs rebuilding America's infrastructure.
- **Strengthen Ties to Workforce for College Students**
 - **What's the Federal Work Study (FWS) Program?** The FWS program provides part-time jobs for undergraduate/graduate students, allowing them to earn money to help pay education expenses.
 - **What's the Problem:** The Federal Work Study program (FWS) funds are disproportionately distributed to four-year non-profit and flagship public institutions, leaving out quality two-year programs, many of which have a uniquely strong focus on workplace readiness.
 - **Trump Plan:** Enacting FWS reforms including: revamping the funding formula to send funds to schools with a strong record in enrolling Pell students and putting them on a pathway to success; limiting eligibility to undergraduates; and using program dollars to fund career-related internships or expanding apprenticeship and career pathway programs.
- **Reform Licensing Requirements for Individuals Seeking a Job on an Infrastructure Project**
 - In many cases, states accepting federal funding to support infrastructure projects do not allow workers with out-of-state skilled trade licenses to work on those projects. The plan calls for requiring states that accept Federal funds for infrastructure projects accept workers with out-of-state licenses to work on those projects would speed project delivery, reduce project costs, and provide flexibility to workers with out-of-state skilled trade licenses.

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