

Workforce Development

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IEC's Position

- IEC is a strong advocate for expanding government-registered apprenticeship and workforce development programs that provide both classroom instruction and hands-on experience in the electrical trade.
- IEC advocates for reforms to burdensome U.S. Department of Labor regulations that have historically limited participation by employers, providers, and learners in government-registered apprenticeship programs.
- IEC opposes federal, state, and local policies that unfairly restrict approval of nonunion apprenticeship programs.
- IEC rejects government requirements that mandate participation in registered apprenticeship programs or the use of apprentices as a condition for winning taxpayer-funded construction projects, ensuring fair access for all qualified contractors and workforce development providers.
- IEC supports the Working Families Tax Cuts (WFTC) Act's expansion of 529 education savings accounts to workforce development programs and materials. Likewise, IEC supports the WFTC Act's expansion of Workforce Pell Grants to encourage higher education institutions to offer vocational training, such as electrical apprenticeships, to learners.
- IEC supports reauthorizing the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

IEC's Ask

- **Ask:** Expand support for government-registered apprenticeship and workforce development programs.
- **Ask:** Reform burdensome regulations that limit participation in apprenticeship programs.
- **Ask:** Support policies that promote fair access to workforce programs, without restrictive mandates.
- **Ask:** Reauthorize key workforce legislation and expand education funding tools.

Background

The demand for skilled electricians continues to outpace supply, while existing policies and regulatory structures can limit participation in workforce development programs. America needs 80,000 net new electricians each year to meet growing industry demand.

Barriers within apprenticeship systems and broader workforce policies can restrict access for employers, training providers, and learners, slowing the development of the next generation of skilled workers.

IEC supports 50+ local chapters nationwide, IEC currently has more than 22,000+ apprentices enrolled in government-registered electrical apprenticeship programs, and member contractors hire extensively from this talent pool.