



## **Preparing Americans for High-Paying Skilled Trade Jobs of the Future**

### **Administration Policy**

President Trump issued an Executive Order titled [Preparing Americans for High-Paying Skilled Trade Jobs of the Future](#) which makes it the policy of the United States to “optimize and target Federal investments in workforce development to align with our country’s reindustrialization needs and equip American workers to fill the growing demand for skilled trades and other occupations.”

Specifically, this EO requires the Secretaries of Labor, Commerce, and Education (the Secretaries) to review all Federal workforce programs and submit a report identifying:

- Opportunities to integrate systems and realign resources to address critical workforce needs and in-demand skills of [emerging industries](#) and companies investing in the United States as determined, to the extent permissible by law, by prospective employers.
- Federal workforce development and education programs, or related spending within these programs, that are ineffective or otherwise fail to achieve their desired outcomes. Each identified program should be accompanied by a proposal to reform the program, redirect its funding, or eliminate it.
- Available statutory authorities to promote innovation and system integration in pursuit of better employment and earnings outcomes for program participants.
- Opportunities to invest in the upskilling of incumbent workers to meet rapidly evolving skill demands of their industries, including the use of Artificial Intelligence in the workplace.

The EO also requires the Secretaries to submit a plan to expand Registered Apprenticeships to at least one million new, active apprenticeships. The plan should include ways to expand apprenticeships into new industries and opportunities to enhance connections between education systems and Registered Apprenticeships. The Secretaries are also required to improve transparency and efficiency for Federal workforce development programs.

### **Background**

- In 2024, the Biden administration issued a [proposed rule](#) which would have eliminated the existing competency-based model for workforce development programs, and added new DEI requirements for the apprenticeship system.
- In 2017, President Trump issued [Executive Order 13801](#) which made it the policy of the Federal Government to “provide more affordable pathways to secure, high-paying jobs by promoting apprenticeships and effective workforce development programs, while easing the regulatory burden on such programs and reducing or eliminating taxpayer support for ineffective workforce development programs.”
- A fact sheet from the White House can be found [here](#).