

# Congress Can Strengthen Business and the Workforce through Industry Sector Partnerships

The most successful training programs are industry specific and are shaped by businesses and workers that have first-hand knowledge of a particular sector's job needs. That knowledge is invaluable for identifying skill needs, designing training programs, and shaping worker retention and advancement strategies. Industry sector partnerships (ISP) bring together key stakeholders to develop industry-specific talent pipelines that strengthen businesses and the workforce.

## SUCCESSFUL INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS



### ✓ Match skills training opportunities with business skill needs:

Employers collaborate with education and training providers and other partners to focus training programs on in-demand skills and job opportunities.



### ✓ Support worker retention and advancement:

Diverse partnerships can identify strategies for offering access to key worker supports (e.g. childcare, transportation) that help workers participate in training and upskilling opportunities.



### ✓ Create a local workforce community:

ISPs bring together businesses, education and training providers, community-based organizations, and unions. Some partners may not participate in skills training conversations, but bring expertise about local communities, worker needs, and support services.



### ✓ Support Small and Mid-Sized Employers (SME):

ISPs empower SMEs to offer in-house training or contribute to the curriculum for training provided at a community or technical college. SMEs have fewer staff and less capital than larger companies. Participation in an ISP helps them meet their skills training needs and amplify their voices.



Industry sector partnerships are a win-win for businesses and workers.

Employers get skilled workers and workers can access skills training and support needed for good jobs in the local economy.

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## CONGRESS CAN SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF ISPs BY:

- Support convening, expansion of, and sustainability for industry partnerships and resulting training programs (**Introduce the SECTORS Act in the reauthorization of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act**).
- Empower partnerships to meet businesses need to hire, upskill, and reskill workers through on-the-job learning opportunities including apprenticeships (**Modernize and reauthorize Trade Adjustment Assistance programs and reinstate Trade Adjustment Assistance for Community College and Career Training**).
- Provide dedicated funding through annual appropriations to support development and expansion of ISPs in industries and regions across the country.