What is the WCTF?

The Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund invests in demand-driven programs designed by industry sector partnerships that train and place unemployed and underemployed workers. Between 2007 and 2011, the Fund supported 31 partnerships serving more than 6,700 youth and adults. During this period participating businesses documented significant improvements in productivity, profitability, increased sales and employee retention.

Addressing the Middle Skills Gap

Between 2013 and 2016 the WCTF Addressing the Middle Skills Gap grant program awarded $4.5 million to 15 partnerships to train and place unemployed and underemployed individuals and meet the hiring needs of regional businesses. The industry sectors represented by these partnerships included construction, manufacturing, health care, early childhood education, financial services, transportation and travel and tourism.

Outcomes

903 Job seekers enrolled
817 Job seekers completed training (90%)
670 People were placed in jobs
447 Employers hired a job seeker who participated in this round
74% Placement rate out of enrollments vs 56% National rate
83% Retained for 6 months vs 64% National rate
$15.02 Average wage of those placed in jobs

Demographics

56% Race/Ethnic Minority
42% Female
84% Low-Income
57% Have a High School Diploma or less
40% Receiving Public Assistance