

Skills for an Inclusive Economic Recovery

The **National Skills Coalition** has released a call to action for the role that skills policy can play in an inclusive economic recovery. Direct link to the report: [September 2020](#).



"An inclusive economic recovery is an expansion of the U.S. economy in which the workers and businesses who were most impacted by this recession, as well as workers who were previously held back by structural barriers of discrimination or lack of opportunity, are empowered to equitably participate in and benefit from the economy's expansion and restructuring." (Page 6)

GUIDING POLICY PRINCIPLES:

- INVEST IN THOSE FIRST WHO HAVE BEEN HURT THE MOST
- ELIMINATE STRUCTURAL RACISM IN SKILLS POLICIES
- BETTER JOBS THAN BEFORE THE PANDEMIC
- SUSTAINABLE CAREERS VS. JUST A JOB
- INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH SMALL BUSINESSES AT THE TABLE
- MEASURE THE IMPACTS OF OUR INTERVENTIONS AND HOLD OURSELVES ACCOUNTABLE

INCLUSIVE SKILLS POLICY ON ITS OWN WILL NOT DISMANTLE STRUCTURAL RACISM, BRING ECONOMIC SECURITY TO EVERY WORKER, OR IGNITE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH FOR EVERY SMALL BUSINESS. BUT SKILLS POLICY HAS AN ESSENTIAL ROLE TO PLAY.

EIGHT-PART POLICY AGENDA

1. A SAFETY NET THAT SUPPORTS WORKERS' LONG-TERM PATHWAY TO A SKILLED CAREER. Remove barriers to our nation's safety net for all workers, including those impacted by the pandemic, and make it a foundation for new career pathways.
2. A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO RE-TRAINING AND RE-EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL DISPLACED WORKERS. Guarantee income, healthcare, training, and re-employment support for any worker who loses a job due to economic disruptions such as pandemics, automation, or trade.
3. PUBLICLY FUNDED JOB CREATION THAT INCLUDES TRAINING FOR THOSE IN NEED OF A NEW CAREER. Ensure job creation efforts, such as those around infrastructure or an expanded public health workforce to fight the pandemic, include investments in skills that expand access to long-term careers for local workers.
4. SUPPORT TO LOCAL BUSINESSES TO AVERT LAYOFFS AND ENCOURAGE UPSKILLING. Subsidize small and mid-sized businesses to avert layoffs, keep their employees paid, and support their re-training during down time.
5. SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS TO DRIVE INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC TRAINING AND HIRING STRATEGIES. Support the partnerships that communities need to develop training strategies targeting the specific needs of individual industries and the local workforce.
6. DIGITAL ACCESS AND LEARNING FOR ALL WORKING PEOPLE AT HOME AND ON THE JOB. Eliminate barriers by making high-quality digital learning available to all workers.
7. HIGH QUALITY, JOB-READY EDUCATION FOR THOSE WHO NEED TO RE-ENTER THE LABOR MARKET, INCLUDING MAKING COLLEGE WORK FOR WORKING PEOPLE. Increase system capacity and expand access to high quality, industry driven education and training that prepares workers for good jobs.
8. PUBLIC DATA AND ACCOUNTABILITY REGARDING WHO IS BEING INCLUDED IN THIS RECOVERY. Report data on how different workers and businesses are faring in the recovery and hold policies accountable to equitable outcomes for those most impacted.