

THE JOB CORPS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION ACT

The Job Corps for the Next Generation Act would allow for greater access to Job Corps, greater flexibility in campus operations to adapt to shifting student and employer needs, a focus on continuous improvement in student outcomes, and a new Job Corps career training program that provides a direct pathway for youth disconnected from the workforce into careers of strategic national importance to the United States.

The Job Corps for the Next Generation Act would make the following improvements:

Improving the student experience:

- Redesignates Job Corps centers as Job Corps campuses to reflect the educational mission of Job Corps.
- Expands Job Corps eligibility to help the program reach more individuals.
- Promotes a no-wrong door approach to enrollment in Job Corps, YouthBuild, or WIOA Youth programs.
- Modifies Job Corps' drug-testing policy to account for marijuana legalization in some states.
- Clarifies that the purpose of drug-testing is assessing employability and the need for behavioral interventions, including substance abuse treatment.
- Enables Job Corps graduates to remain housed in Job Corps after they graduate in order to facilitate successful transitions to independent living.
- Enables Job Corps students to be enrolled in apprenticeships or postsecondary education or employed prior to graduation to better facilitate successful transitions out of the Job Corps.
- Enables Job Corps to compensate students, instead of social media companies, for advertising and successfully recruiting applicants on their own social media accounts.
- Facilitates the creation of a new Job Corps career development program that would enable Job Corps students to receive career and technical education and direct employment into careers of strategic national importance at the Department of Defense, the Forest Service, and the Veterans Administration.

Encouraging local and campus-driven decision-making:

- Enables campus directors to make decisions regarding staff development and hiring, engage and set the terms for local and employer partnership development, and engage with policymakers and stakeholders.
- Allows campus directors new flexibility to potentially retain students that commit a behavioral infraction rather than immediately expelling them from the program, so long as they do not pose a threat to others on campus.
- Ensures that DOL takes into account the budgetary impact of any mandated changes to campus operations.
- Enables campuses to leverage external sources of funding.
- Enables campus directors to make decisions regarding learning management and campus safety protocols so they can quickly make adjustments to curriculum or educational delivery.

Reprioritizing student outcomes:

- Refocuses Job Corps campus contract awards on performance with respect to student outcomes.
- Provides for greater stability in Job Corps operations particularly at high-performing campuses.
- Ensures performance goals are achievable so that they are meaningful.
- Utilizes consistent and relative measures of performance to drive continuous improvement.