

Dear State Workforce Agencies, Workforce Board directors, and American Job Center directors:

On May 29, 2025, the US Department of Labor (DOL) announced it will begin a phased pause in operations at contractor-operated Job Corps centers nationwide, initiating an orderly transition for students, staff, and local communities. The news release can be found at: [US Department of Labor pauses Job Corps center operations | U.S. Department of Labor](#).

The pause of operations at all contractor-operated Job Corps centers will occur by June 30, 2025. This communication requests that all state and local workforce partners assist current students in advancing their training and connecting them with education and employment opportunities and provide Job Corps Center staff with career transition support.

Transitioning Job Corps Participants

Job Corps Centers are working now to arrange safe transportation to departing students to their home of record or their next location, and providing Job Corps students with resources on employment as this transition takes place. The Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration is writing to you now to prepare state and local workforce partners to assist current students in advancing their training and connecting them with education and employment opportunities, including with pre-apprenticeship and Registered Apprenticeship programs.

- There are approximately 25,000 Job Corps students enrolled in the DOL Job Corps program who will be returning to their home of record throughout the month of June, and this process will finish by June 30, 2025.
- Job Corps students will receive copies of personal documents and accomplishments to assist with potential transfer to other job training programs or employment.
- Job Corps Center staff will likely contact the American Job Center (AJC) closest to the student's home of record and may offer to provide the student's information to an AJC program to try to help determine eligibility for other workforce programs. The students may also be the ones initiating this contact. Please be ready to use the information that the Job Corps Center provides in order to outreach to returning students, help them explore WIOA or other programs, and where appropriate rapidly begin services with a new program.
- Approximately half of all Job Corps students are enrolled in Job Corps Centers more than 50 miles from their home community. With nearly 2,300 AJCs nationwide, and Job Corps students headed back to communities across the country, many AJCs can expect only a few Job Corps students seeking AJC assistance. However, some AJCs may see a larger number of Job Corps students in need of assistance. AJCs may want to consider having a point person who can be ready to coordinate services for any Job Corps students that need assistance from WIOA or AJC partner programs.
- State Workforce Agencies that would like to contact Job Corps students returning to the SWA's state should contact JobCorpsAssistance@dol.gov to discuss the potential for ETA to securely transfer records for students that opted to sign an information release form. These

records include information about students' education levels, credentials, current training and progress completed, and students' contact information.

- A student resource page with information and links to workforce system resources is available on [JobCorps.gov](https://www.jobcorps.gov).

State and local workforce development boards and local AJCs can support the transition of Job Corps participants from the Centers in several ways. Many Job Corps students are youth and young adults ready to work and have received services and some training that prepare them for the workforce. They are among the very jobseekers that WIOA is designed to serve, and they are full of potential to be very successful in the labor force. American Job Centers can help local employers find the staff they need and meet their statutory mission by supporting Job Corps students in finding employment, a particular strength of AJCs.

Many Job Corps participants will be ready for work experience, including summer employment, and providing such work experiences can help ensure local areas meet the required minimum 20 percent work experience expenditure requirement. These services are allowable activities within the WIOA Youth program and the WIOA Adult program. AJCs should be ready to help students register with the labor exchange system and provide virtual and, where feasible, in-person career guidance to support their job search.

Job Corps Center staff or students that reach out to AJC programs may also be eager to learn about Registered Apprenticeships and Pell grant opportunities. Several states are well-designed to connect AJC customers with apprenticeship opportunities or prepare them for Registered Apprenticeships. For states or local areas still developing that capacity, refer to resources such as:

- [gov](https://www.jobcorps.gov) Career Seeker Website - Information on Registered Apprenticeship and how to become an apprentice - Career Seekers | Apprenticeship.gov
- Apprenticeship Job Finder –search for local apprenticeship job openings - Apprenticeship Finder | Apprenticeship.gov
- Apprenticeship partner finder – explore all Registered Apprenticeship programs and Training providers to find apprenticeship programs and partners. Students and staff can search by location, industry, occupation, keyword etc. - Partner Finder | Apprenticeship.gov

Job Corps students will vary in their stage of education and training for employability, including those ready to enter the workforce and those who may need additional training and supportive services before attaining job opportunities. It is therefore critical that AJCs assess the Job Corps students to determine the most appropriate services for which they may be eligible and connect them to such services. Some Job Corps students may need immediate supportive services, particularly those who need housing. As a reminder, assistance with housing is an allowable WIOA supportive service and can be provided as soon as an individual becomes a WIOA participant. There is no Federal limit on the amount of WIOA funds available for supportive services. Please follow state and local supportive service policies, including any state or local

supportive service funding caps. AJCs should also support students in connecting and leveraging critical public benefits, including SNAP and TANF.

Job Corps students will receive copies of personal documents and accomplishments (such as their Training Achievement Record) to assist with potential transfer to other job training programs. AJCs should ask the Job Corps students for copies of these documents to assist in the assessment process. Job Corps students are likely eligible for several programs funded such as the WIOA Adult program, WIOA Youth program, WIOA Title II Adult Education program, Registered Apprenticeship programs, and YouthBuild among others.

The Department will share additional information as we continue to assist students transition safely out of Job Corps.

Support for Job Corps Center staff

Job Corps-contracted centers are staffed with employees who work for Job Corps operators and are not federal employees. The operators are largely private contractors who each operate multiple centers. While the Department cannot speak to the contractors' plans regarding the employment status of the contractors' employees, as the Centers transition to paused status through June, some Job Corps Centers staff will become unemployed. As in any layoff or economic change, the Department encourages State Workforce Agencies (SWA) to support workers impacted by the Center pause. State or local Rapid Response teams can contact Job Corps Center operators in their states to arrange for on-site services to staff expecting layoffs. To deploy Rapid Response, SWAs may consult the online list of Job Corp Centers as a starting point for contact information to identify relevant points of contact for the Job Corps Centers in their state. Please note that Job Corps Centers administered by USDA and the Forest Service continue to operate. ETA Regional Office staff are currently contacting states to discuss potential workforce system responses to Center layoffs, and are able to provide up-to-date information on Job Corps Center status and contact information. SWAs can also work with local workforce development boards and AJCs to outreach to and/or prepare for dislocated workers.

WIOA Dislocated Worker funds will provide adequate resources for the response in several states. Some Job Corps Center layoffs may qualify for [Employment Recovery Dislocated Worker Grants](#) (DWG), which expand the capacity of states and local communities to serve dislocated workers and to meet the increased demand for employment and training services following a qualifying dislocation event such as a mass layoff, plant closure, or higher-than-average demand for employment and training. The Department encourages states and impacted local communities to assess whether they can sufficiently meet the needs of dislocated Job Corps center staff with resources available through unemployment compensation, the Employment Service, and the WIOA Dislocated Worker program, and if not, consider applying for a DWG.

Kim Vitelli, ETA Office of Workforce Investment Administrator

