



June 12th, 2025

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer:

We are writing to express our serious concerns with the recent actions taken by the Department of Labor (DOL) to halt funding and discontinue the Job Corps program. While we understand and agree with upholding accountability and support DOL taking steps to implement additional reviews of individual centers for efficiency and effectiveness, we request that you reverse course on the decision to defund this program and urge you to allow these vital career training operations to continue functioning, given the needs of our state and communities.

For more than sixty years, Job Corps has aided millions of low-income individuals gain the skills they need to succeed in the workplace.¹ Job Corps is the largest free residential education and job training program for young adults aged 16-24; and thus, is vital to helping students graduate high school, develop career technical skills, and connect students with employers. At a time when almost three-fourths of jobs require training beyond a high school diploma,² Job Corps provides students the opportunity to succeed when they may not initially have the tools to do so. Since 1979, Nevada has relied on Job Corps to cultivate a strong workforce. Eliminating the program will have extremely negative impacts on the communities, employers, and youth who depend on it.

With over 99 Job Corps threatened campuses currently spanning the country and nearly 25,000 enrolled students,³ the program's abrupt shutdown will drastically undermine workforce development efforts nationwide. It will strip countless young people of the opportunity to gain valuable skills, education, and a pathway to stable employment. The ripple effects will be felt by local economies and employers who depend on Job Corps graduates to fill critical roles in industries such as construction, healthcare, information technology, and more.

¹ U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Job Corps, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/jobcorps>

² Carnevale, Anthony P., Smith, Nicole, Van Der Werf, Martin, and Quinn, Michael C., Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, "After Everything: Projections of Jobs, Education, and Training Requirements through 2031," 2023, <https://cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/Projections2031-National-Report.pdf>

³ U.S. Department of Labor, "Job Corps Pause FAQs," <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/OPA/newsreleases/2025/05/OSEC20250929.pdf>

In Nevada, we've seen firsthand the positive outcomes as a result of investing in our workers through the Job Corp program. The Sierra Nevada Job Corps Center in Reno has been a vital economic engine for Northern Nevada, serving approximately 25,000 Nevadans since its opening, and graduating more than 500 vocational students a year. In the 2024 program year alone, nearly 82 percent of its students secured full-time employment with a starting wage of at least \$17.97 per hour — nearly \$6 above the Nevada's minimum wage. Furthermore, 75 percent of Sierra Nevada Job Corps participants earn at least one certification required by employers. Beyond job training and placement, the center also provides opportunities for room and board which ensures a stable living environment for low-income students who may otherwise struggle to afford housing while acquiring career training.

The DOL's imminent stop work order on all Job Corps programming will displace approximately nearly 300 students and 170 staff members at the Sierra Nevada Job Corps Center. The closure will also compel the Center to evict all of its students, leaving the vast majority at serious risk of homelessness.⁴ Given Nevada's already alarming youth homelessness rate of 12% in 2022—and a 27% surge in unaccompanied youth homelessness from 2023 to 2024—this decision will further exacerbate an already systemic crisis.

While we appreciate your department working to increase accountability and bring workforce programs into alignment with the Administration's priorities, we strongly urge you reconsider the decision to cut funding and close Job Corps programs in Nevada and nationwide. Following that, we stand ready to work with you in finding ways to raise nationwide performance metrics and deliverables for the program to help make Job Corps as successful nationally as it has been in Nevada.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate



Joe Lombardo
Governor



Jacky Rosen
United States Senate

⁴ Manzoni, Mike, *Fox 9*, "St. Paul Jobs Corps students move out, face homelessness," June 1, 2025, <https://www.fox9.com/news/st-paul-jobs-corps-students-move-out-face-homelessness>



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