



## **Skills for CA 2024 Policy Priorities**

[Skills for California](#) is a statewide network of organizations advancing workforce development policies that remove systemic barriers and promote an inclusive economy for all Californians including, but not limited to, communities of color, opportunity youth, individuals with disabilities, justice-involved individuals, undocumented immigrants, and mixed-status families. The Network's guiding principles are equity, pathways to good jobs, and systems innovation. We believe that all work is skilled and dignified, and that access to, and completion of, high-quality education and training are critical tools to achieve economic mobility for all Californians. Our 2024 priorities seek to broaden inclusive workforce development policies that enable historically excluded Californians to benefit from our state's prosperity by removing barriers to education, employment, and training opportunities that lead to good jobs and supporting the workforce development needs of workers and high-road employers.

### **Increase access to good jobs**

- Identify and support state legislation, budget initiatives, and administrative rule changes that increase access to family-supporting wages, benefits, workplace safety standards, opportunities for career advancement, employer education, and other indicators prioritized by workers. All workers, especially those in low-wage and front-line industries, deserve to have their economic needs and career aspirations fulfilled through dignified employment. Further, high-quality jobs attract job seekers and can be a tool to address industry workforce recruitment and retention needs.

### **Strengthen and expand a social safety net that supports Californians as they engage in education and training opportunities to secure good jobs**

- Increase access to resources such as food, healthcare, housing, childcare, affordable broadband connectivity, digital skill-building, and digital literacy opportunities.
- Advance initiatives that support individuals who face barriers to accessing education/training opportunities including, but not limited to, the total cost of attendance, childcare, time off of work, transportation, etc.

### **Support and expand industry-specific training that leads to good jobs**

- Strengthen high-road industry partnerships by supporting workforce models that foster and enhance regional strategies through collaborations with business, education, workforce, labor, and community organizations to meet community employment and workforce development needs.

### **Support and strengthen career technical education programs at community colleges**

- Secure sustainable investments and programming at community colleges to strengthen Career Technical Education (CTE) and broaden access to these programs, as well as increase short- and long-term training opportunities that lead to quality, industry-recognized credentials, licenses, and other certifications.
- Ensure financial aid is accessible to students regardless of immigration status to cover tuition, materials, digital devices, and other costs.
- Remove barriers to applying for, and participating in, community college apprenticeship and internship programs regardless of immigration status.

### **Expand earn-and-learn training opportunities**

- Secure sustainable investments for pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and other earn-and-learn opportunities that lead to outcome-driven, industry-recognized credentials, licenses, and other certifications.
- Increase support for employers, workforce organizations, community college registered apprenticeship programs, cooperative education programs, and industry leaders to develop and strengthen high-road training that prioritizes communities experiencing occupational segregation, earning low wages, and having limited community organizational infrastructure in place.

### **Strengthen data collection and reporting to inform decision-making for policymakers and individuals**

- Continued investment and implementation of the Cradle-to-Career Data System which will provide decision-makers with data to inform policy change and investments, as well as provide Californians with information that can inform their education, training, and career choices.
- Advance initiatives that will improve data collection practices and quality.