



Construction Industry Round Table

Business News

A force for positive change in the design / construction industry

06/16/2017 – Workforce Training Needs Get Presidential Attention

President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order yesterday that could more than double federal spending on apprenticeship and give more flexibility to training providers, including employers and employer associations, to develop apprenticeship programs that fit their needs, closing the skills gaps in their industries. [Copy of the [executive order](#) dated June 15, 2017]. Opportunity America Jobs and Careers Coalition, which CIRT is an active member, applauded the President for his commitment in addressing skills mismatches that are curtailing economic growth and closing off opportunities for millions of Americans.

The Coalition is encouraged to see the President use his bully pulpit to call attention to this urgent issue; and by his pledge to increase federal funding for some training programs. In addition to funds, the White House also committed to streamlining federal regulations and cut red tape, empowering employers and employer groups to develop programs that will make a difference in their industries. The key passage states: *“It shall be the policy of the Federal Government to provide more affordable pathways to secure, high paying jobs by promoting apprenticeships and effective workforce development programs, while easing the regulatory burden on such programs and reducing or eliminating taxpayer support for ineffective workforce development programs.”*

Coalition members look forward to working with the White House and Congress on a bipartisan basis to flesh-out the President’s proposals.

[The Opportunity America Jobs and Careers Coalition](#) is a business coalition focused on career education and workforce development. Members include employers and employer associations from a broad range of industries experiencing skills mismatches and worker shortages – IT, manufacturing, construction, and hospitality, among others.