



# Federal Legislative Updates

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MAWB Annual Summer  
Conference

August 2025

Oh, what a  
year so far!

Executive Orders

Funding freezes/pauses

- Impoundment

Aggressive Administrative Actions

- Resulting legal challenges!

Federal layoffs/buy outs

Make America Skilled Again Block Grant Proposal

One, Big Beautiful Bill signed

# One, Big Beautiful Law

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## SNAP

- Existing work requirement (80 hours/month) for able-bodied adults would be expanded to include
  - Individuals ages 19-64 (currently 19-55)
  - Single parents with children under the age of 14 (currently under the age of 18)
- These policy changes will likely lead to more individuals using the workforce system although no additional funding was included for WIOA programs
- States will also be responsible for an increased percentage of SNAP costs (based on error payment rate)
  - Highest state cost share would be 15% (error rate over 10%)



# One, Big Beautiful Law

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## Medicaid

- For the first time, there will be a federal work requirement for able-bodied working adults, ages 19-64
- Activities would include work/job, WIOA training program, and/or community service.
  - There are additional exemptions for pregnant women, people with disabilities, and incarcerated individuals.
  - These work requirements could take effect as soon as January 2027 although states can delay implementation until January 2029 (with HHS Secretary approval)
  - States will also be required to increase the frequency of eligibility checks to every 6 months.



# One, Big Beautiful Law

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## Workforce Pell

After many years and attempts, Pell Grant expansion for short term programs is now law.

- The OBBA sets out several criteria for programs to meet –
  - Must be Title IV eligible institutions (colleges/universities, Community Colleges, Trade Schools)
  - Some ETPL providers may not be eligible IF they are not Title IV eligible
  - Must be between 8 – 15 weeks (150 – 600 credit hours)
  - Support programs that provide credit toward certificates and future degrees
  - Operating for at least one year
  - Minimum quality metrics to include at least a 70% completion and job placement rate for programs (not institutional focused)
  - Governors will ultimately determine program eligibility
- The maximum Pell award will be \$7,395 for the 2026 award year – the short term Pell award will be prorated based on credit hours, so it will be less than the maximum. CBO estimates the average short term Pell award to be \$2,200



# Executive Orders on Workforce Development

- President Trump signed Executive Orders on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, related to workforce development programs at the Departments of Labor, Education, and Commerce.
- These departments are currently working on a report with several deliverables to the President, including identifying duplicative programs as well as proposals to reform or eliminate
- The EOs also contain a goal of 1 million active apprentices in the US
  - Department of Labor is leading on this effort
- We have already seen the impact/rationale of these EOs as the internal agreement to roll up the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education into ETA was done so under the promise of efficiency





# Make America Skilled Again

- In its Fiscal Year 2026 budget proposal, DOL included an idea to collapse eleven DOL workforce development funding streams (including WIOA Title I), into one block grant to the states
  - The proposal would also have cut the funding for these combined programs by \$1.6 billion
- Good news – this proposal is not gaining too much traction/attention in Congress
- Bad news – there are some Members in key positions who will want to use this in a renewed WIOA/ASWA discussion

# Is there any good news?!?!



- Workforce development remains a bipartisan issue
  - Chances for WIOA Reauthorization still feeling like a long shot
- Despite attempts and efforts to shutter Job Corps and freeze federal funding for WIOA Titles I and II, there has been positive movement on those issues
  - Strong congressional Republican push back
- Senate appropriators rejected the block grant proposal in their FY2026 Labor, HHS Appropriations Bill
- There is still good reputation for the friendly MAWB!