

Federal Workforce and Education Policy Update

IEDC Fed Forum
March 26, 2018



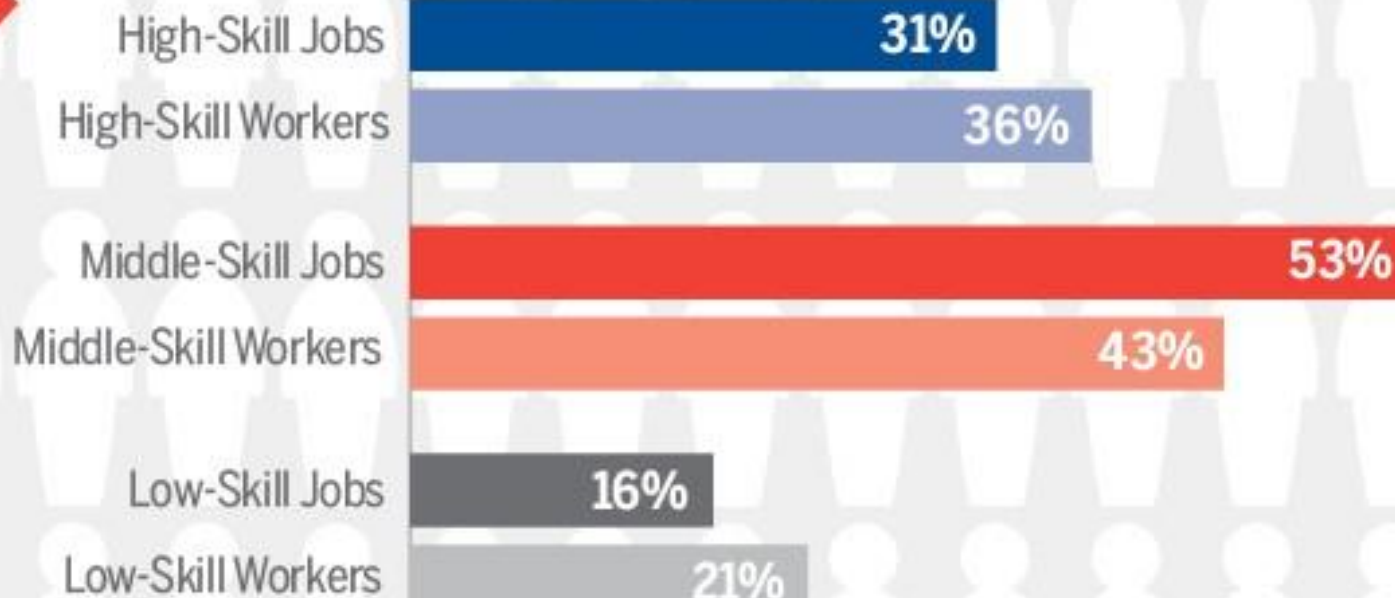
The (Skills) Landscape in Washington

- ✓ **Workforce remain bipartisan issue, though differences on paths forward**
- ✓ **WIOA implementation underway, but potential risks ahead**
- ✓ **Other skills conversations will impact success of workforce investments**



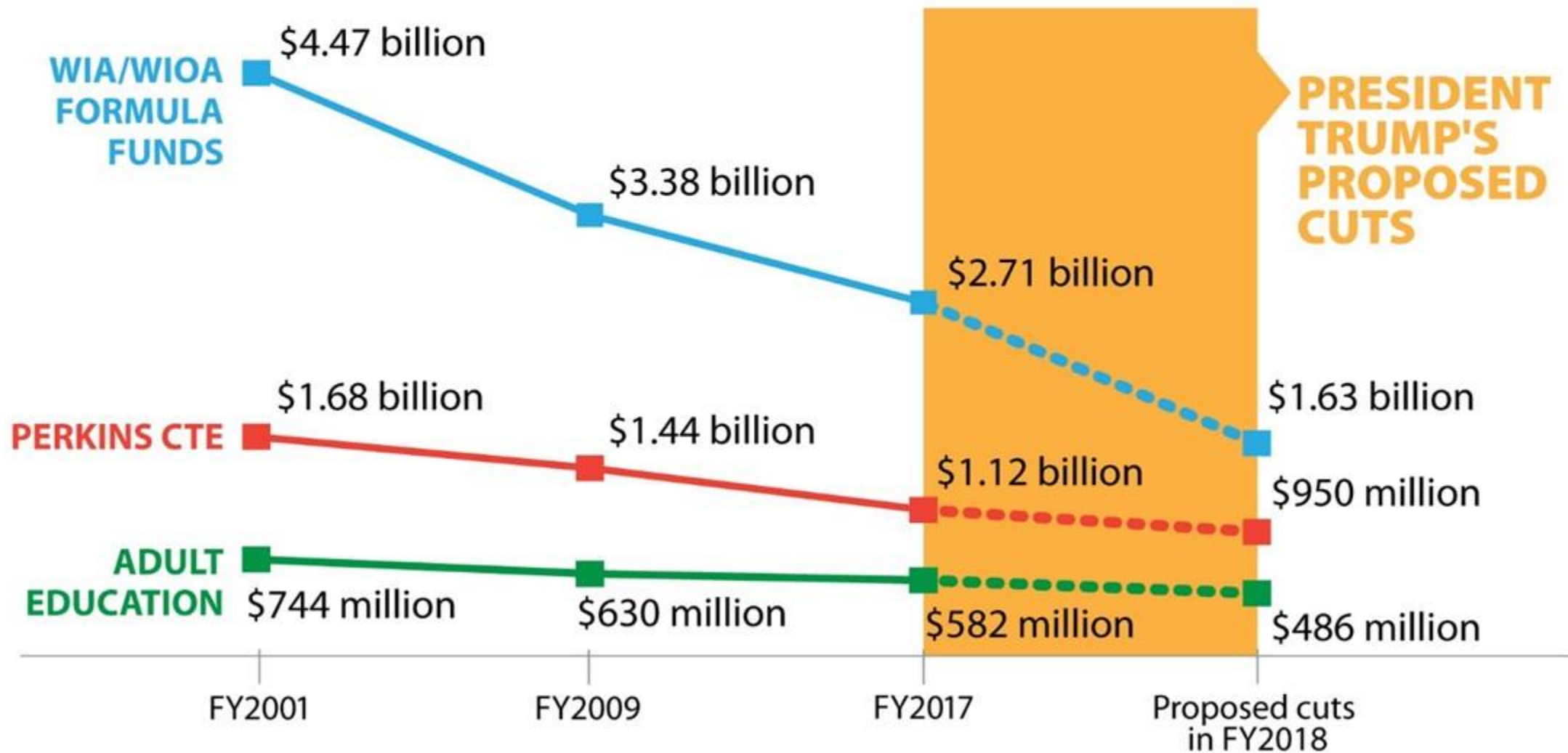
A middle-skill gap

United States
jobs and
workers by
skill level
2015



www.nationalskillscoalition.org

America's workforce: We can't compete if we cut.



WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)

- ✓ **Implementation** underway – states just submitted two-year plan modifications March 15
- ✓ **Performance** negotiations will begin soon for most core programs
- ✓ **Uncertainty** about future – Administration has proposed significant cuts, though Congress just (modestly) increased funding for FY18



Work Based Learning

- ✓ **Apprenticeship Executive Order in June 2017, calls for expanded approval process**
- ✓ **Congressional funding for apprenticeship increased from \$95m to \$145 million for FY'18**



Postsecondary Education

- ✓ **Growing interest in alignment with employer demand, non-traditional students**
- ✓ **Key issues include expanding financial aid to workforce programs, increased accountability, and student supports**
- ✓ **Perkins Act – stalled in Senate**
- ✓ **Higher Education Act – stalled in House**



Welfare “Reform”?

- ✓ **Strong interest from WH, Congressional leaders in cutting back SNAP, Medicaid, other benefits – including through new work requirements**
- ✓ **Broader “reconciliation” bill unlikely**
- ✓ **Farm Bill reauthorization (SNAP) may happen in early 2018**

