CIRT Policy Analysis
Apprenticeships Primer

September 8, 2017
(Most Recent Analysis/Data)
Trump’s executive order will allow third party entities to create their own apprenticeship programs

Details on presidential Executive Order expanding apprenticeships in America

The executive order moves the role of developing government-funded apprenticeship programs from the Department of Labor to third-party private entities — including trade groups, labor unions and businesses.

The third parties will set their own bar for success and submit their metrics to the Labor Department for approval and funding.

White House officials also said they are working with Congress to allow students to use federal student aid for apprenticeship programs in addition to four-year universities.

The executive order follows a proposed budget that decreases funding to the Department of Labor by $2.5 billion (21%), drastically reduces job training services authorized under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and eliminates grants aimed at getting unemployed Americans back to work.

On June 15, 2017, President Trump signed an executive order that will reduce the federal government’s role in creating and monitoring apprenticeship programs, a move that the White House says will help fill vacant jobs.

Apprenticeships are arrangements that include a paid-work component and an educational or instructional component, in which participants obtain workplace-relevant knowledge and skills.

There are currently about 505,000 apprenticeship positions in the U.S., representing less than a percentage of the U.S. workforce.

Apprenticeships are less prominent in the US compared to other countries

Apprentices as a percentage of total workforce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>0.2</td>
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Apprentices comprise only 0.2% of the American workforce.

The vast majority of apprentices are in the construction and military industries

Participation in apprenticeship programs has been increasing steadily since 2011

Active apprentices

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE

- An individual employer, group of employers, or an industry association can sponsor a registered apprenticeship program
- Registered apprenticeship program sponsors make significant investments to design and execute apprenticeship programs, provide jobs to apprentices, oversee training development, and provide hands-on learning and technical instruction for apprentices

Source: Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.
Over 200,000 new individuals entered apprenticeship programs in FY 2016

New apprenticeship program participants

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE

In FY 2016, more than 206,000 individuals nationwide entered the apprenticeship system and 1,700 new apprenticeship programs were established nationwide.
Nearly 50,000 individuals completed apprenticeships in FY 2016

Total program completers

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE

In FY 2016, 49,354 individuals completed their apprenticeship programs

Source: Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.