



# Education, Workforce and Community Investment

The Education, Workforce & Community Investment (EWCI) Task Force focuses on key state-federal policy issues across education, workforce development, and community well-being. With jurisdiction over areas including labor, career and technical education, PreK-12 and postsecondary education, criminal justice, housing, and agriculture, the Task Force provides a forum for Governors to develop bipartisan solutions that expand opportunity, strengthen workforce pipelines, and support thriving, inclusive communities.

## CO-CHAIRS

Gov. Tony Evers, Wisconsin  
Gov. Mark Gordon, Wyoming

## MEMBERS

Gov. Kay Ivey, Alabama  
Gov. Katie Hobbs, Arizona  
Gov. Jared Polis, Colorado  
Gov. Brad Little, Idaho

Gov. Tina Kotek, Oregon  
Gov. Dan McKee, Rhode Island  
Gov. Albert Bryan, Virgin Islands  
Gov. Glenn Youngkin, Virginia

## PRIORITIES

Supporting reauthorization of the Farm Bill;

Supporting efforts to expand innovative educational experiences, apprenticeship opportunities and non-degree pathways including but not limited to the reauthorization of WIOA;

Working with the House and Senate bipartisan Paid Leave Working Groups as they consider a legislative framework around paid family leave;

Supporting continued investment in federal education programs that address workforce needs and efforts to improve state longitudinal data systems;

Increasing supply of housing by strengthening the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) and giving states and territories the tools necessary to streamline burdensome zoning, permitting, and land use policies.

[View Full Task Force Federal Priorities](#)

## ADVOCACY

In July 2025, NGA worked behind the scenes to convey Governors' perspectives to the administration on the importance of releasing federal education funding frozen on July 1. At NGA's Summer Meeting, Education Secretary Linda McMahon announced to Governors that the funds would be released.

In July 2025, Task Force Co-Chairs sent a letter to House and Senate appropriators outlining Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 funding priorities, reinforcing the Task Force's 2025 agenda and highlighting the critical role of federal funding in education, workforce, housing, agriculture, and criminal justice programs across states and territories.

In July 2025, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) was signed into law, permanently strengthening the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) and authorizing Workforce Pell to expand Pell Grant access to short-term, non-degree programs. Prior to its passage, NGA engaged congressional staff to share the Task Force's support for both LIHTC enhancements and non-degree educational pathways.

In May 2025, NGA and the Harvard Project on the Workforce (Harvard) held a congressional briefing on how Governors are using the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to reshape workforce development. The event highlighted a joint NGA-Harvard report on turning WIOA challenges into solutions and featured speakers from the offices of Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs and Tennessee Governor Bill Lee, who shared how their states are leveraging WIOA to advance their Governors' workforce strategies.

In February 2025, at the NGA Winter Meeting, the Task Force spotlighted apprenticeships and non-degree pathways as essential strategies for building a skilled, future-ready workforce. During the session, Governors and private-sector leaders underscored the value of state-led innovation, employer-driven training models, and stronger federal-state collaboration to scale high-quality alternatives to four-year degrees. The discussion reinforced that expanding access to non-traditional education and training is critical to economic mobility and state competitiveness.

## NGA STAFF

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