The Illinois economy is experiencing a skills gap...

52% of jobs in Illinois require skills training—more education than high school but less than a four-year degree. 

41% of Illinois workers are trained at this level.

Career and technical education (CTE) programs can fill these gaps, particularly in Illinois’s key industries, like:

- agriculture and food production
- energy
- advanced manufacturing
- life sciences and biotechnology

Many students are already enrolled in CTE in Illinois, developing technical, academic and employability skills and engaging in work-based experiences with industry partners. During the 2019-20 school year, Illinois had:

278,883 secondary CTE participants
133,163 postsecondary CTE participants

These youth and adult learners in CTE programs are more engaged, graduate high school at higher rates, earn industry-recognized credentials, and have rewarding and family-sustaining careers.

In 2020, CTE degrees and certificates made up 53% of all awards conferred by Illinois’s community college system.

More investment is needed to scale CTE programs across Illinois to ensure that all learners, including historically underserved learners, have access to high-quality CTE programs in high-skill, high-wage and in-demand career fields.

CTE: Good for Students, Good for Business, Good for Communities!

FY 21 Federal Perkins CTE Funding for Illinois
$47,207,040