The Rhode Island economy is experiencing a skills gap...

50% of jobs in Rhode Island require skills training—more education than high school but less than a four-year degree.

41% of Rhode Island workers are trained at this level.

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

- defense, shipbuilding and maritime
- design, food and custom manufacturing
- travel and hospitality
- IT software, cyber-physical systems and data analytics

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

7,756 secondary CTE participants

658 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.

More investment is needed to scale CTE programs across Rhode Island 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!

In 2020-21, 746 high school students participated in the PrepareRI Virtual Internship Program.

FY 21 Federal Perkins CTE Funding for Rhode Island

$6,504,159