



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The Department of Labor (DOL) is responsible for protecting the health, safety, wages, and income security of workers and retirees. The President's 2023 Budget for DOL invests in: building the skills of America's workers; protecting workers' rights, health and safety, and wages; strengthening the integrity and accessibility of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program; and creating good, middle-class jobs that are safe, equitable, pay fair wages and benefits, empower workers, and offer opportunities for advancement.

The Budget requests \$14.6 billion in discretionary funding for DOL, a \$2.2 billion or 18-percent increase from the 2021 enacted level.

The President's 2023 Budget:

- **Empowers and Protects Workers.** To ensure workers are treated with dignity and respect in the workplace, the Budget invests \$2.2 billion, an increase of \$397 million above the 2021 enacted level, in the Department's worker protection agencies. Between 2016 and 2020, DOL worker protection agencies lost approximately 14 percent of their staff, limiting their ability to perform inspections and conduct investigations. The Budget would enable DOL to conduct the enforcement and regulatory work needed to ensure workers' wages and benefits are protected, address the misclassification of workers as independent contractors, and improve workplace health and safety. The Budget also ensures fair treatment for millions of workers by restoring resources to oversee and enforce the equal employment obligations of Federal contractors, including protections against discrimination based on race, gender, disability, gender identity, and sexual orientation.
- **Equips Workers with Skills They Need to Obtain High-Quality Jobs.** The Budget invests in effective, evidence-based training models to equip workers with the skills they need to obtain high-quality jobs. Community colleges play a critical role in providing accessible, low-cost, and high-quality training, and the Budget invests \$100 million to build their capacity to work with the public workforce development system and employers to design and deliver high-quality workforce programs. The Budget also provides \$100 million for a new Sectoral Employment through Career Training for Occupational Readiness program, which would support training programs focused on growing industries, enabling underserved and underrepresented workers to access good jobs and creating the skilled workforce the economy needs to thrive.
- **Expands Access to Registered Apprenticeships (RA).** RA is a proven earn-and-learn model that raises participants' wages and places them on a reliable path to the middle class.

The Budget invests \$303 million, a \$118 million increase above the 2021 enacted level, to expand RA opportunities in high-growth fields, such as technology, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and transportation, while increasing access for historically underrepresented groups, including people of color and women, and diversifying the industry sectors involved. To improve access to RAs for women, the Budget doubles DOL's investment in its Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations grants, which provide pre-apprenticeship opportunities to boost women's participation in RA.

- **Provides Training and Employment Pathways for Youth.** The Budget invests in programs that provide youth with equitable access to high-quality training and career opportunities. The Budget invests \$75 million for a new National Youth Employment Program, which would create high-quality summer and year-round job opportunities for underserved youth. The Budget also provides \$145 million for YouthBuild, \$48 million above the 2021 enacted level, to enable more at-risk youth to gain both the education and occupational skills they need to obtain good jobs. To further advance equity and inclusion, the Budget provides \$15 million to test new ways to enable low-income youth with disabilities, including youth who are in foster care, involved in the justice system, or who are experiencing homelessness, to successfully transition to employment.
- **Supports Legacy Energy Communities.** In order to address changes in the energy economy, the Budget continues to invest in strategic planning, partnership development, and training and reemployment activities for displaced workers. The Budget provides \$100 million to support DOL's role in the multi-agency POWER+ Initiative, which aims to assist displaced workers and transform local economies and communities transitioning away from fossil fuel production to new, sustainable industries. The Budget also includes \$35 million, administered in partnership with the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Delta Regional Authority, to help Appalachian and Delta communities develop local and regional workforce development strategies that promote long-term economic stability and opportunities for workers, especially those connected to the energy industry. Further, the Budget provides \$20 million for DOL to partner with AmeriCorps and other agencies to establish a Civilian Climate Corps program to help communities address the climate crisis by creating service opportunities and job training programs in emerging industries.
- **Modernizes, Protects, and Strengthens the UI Safety Net.** The UI program has helped millions of Americans through periods of unemployment during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Budget invests \$3.4 billion, an increase of \$769 million above the 2021 enacted level, to modernize, protect, and strengthen this critical program. This includes several investments aimed at tackling fraud in the UI program, including funding to support more robust identity verification for UI applicants, help States develop and test fraud-prevention tools and strategies, and allow the DOL Office of Inspector General to increase its investigations into fraud rings targeting the UI program. To allow States to serve claimants more quickly and effectively while strengthening program integrity, the Budget also updates the formula for determining the amount States receive to administer UI, the first comprehensive update in decades. The Budget also proposes principles to guide future efforts to reform the UI system, including improving benefit levels and access, scaling UI benefits automatically during recessions, expanding eligibility to reflect the modern labor force, improving State and Federal solvency through more equitable and progressive financing, expanding reemployment services, and safeguarding the program from fraud.
- **Strengthens Mental Health Parity Protections.** The Budget requires all health plans to cover mental health benefits, ensures that plans have an adequate network of behavioral

health providers, and improves DOL's ability to enforce the law. In addition, the Budget includes \$275 million over 10 years to increase the Department's capacity to ensure that large group market health plans and issuers comply with mental health and substance use disorder requirements, and expand the Agency's capacity to take action against plans and issuers that do not comply.