

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO . 10-22
	DATE December 6, 2022

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS
STATE WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATORS
STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS
ALL AMERICAN JOB CENTER PROGRAMS

FROM: BRENT PARTON /s/
Acting Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Joint Communication on Guidance to States on Addressing the Workforce Needs and Safety of the Telecommunications Industry

1. **Purpose.** To announce a joint communication from Department of Labor's (Department) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on the workforce development opportunities associated with additional broadband and wireless telecommunications investment.
2. **Action Requested.** ETA encourages workforce grantees to work with state broadband organizations and public utility commissions to support the creation of good jobs in the telecommunications industry.
3. **Summary and Background.**
 - a. Summary – Recent and upcoming investment in the broadband and telecommunications industry creates significant opportunities to create good jobs that attract workers from across the country, including from underserved communities, which are adversely affected by persistent poverty, discrimination, or inequality. Workforce development boards and workforce grantees play a role in fostering opportunities to recruit and retain workers for good jobs created in the telecommunications industry.
 - b. Background –The telecommunications industry provides access to critical communications tools for people across the country. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides important support for the development of additional broadband and wireless telecommunications investment alike. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration will administer \$48.2 billion through the [Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment \(BEAD\) Program](#), the [Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program](#), the [Digital Equity Act Programs](#), and the [Enabling Middle Mile Infrastructure Program](#). In addition, the FCC will administer \$14.42 billion for the [Affordable Connectivity Program](#), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture will administer \$2 billion via the [Rural Utilities Services](#). The IIJA directs the Secretary of Labor, in partnership with the Chair of the FCC, to establish and issue guidance on how States can address the

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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workforce needs and safety of the telecommunications industry. Consistent with this directive, ETA and the FCC are issuing the attached joint communication to promote coordination from state and local government systems to increase availability of good jobs in the telecommunications industry.

4. **Highlights from the Joint Communication.** The joint communication suggests four key strategies to address the workforce needs and safety of the telecommunications industry:
 - a. Leveraging good jobs to recruit workers and retain them for the future.
 - b. Partnering with State Workforce Development Boards and workforce organizations to fill good jobs.
 - c. Promoting and improving recruitment in workforce development programs.
 - d. Ensuring the safety of the telecommunications workforce, including tower climbers.
5. **Inquiries.** For further information, please contact your Federal Project Officer (FPO).
6. **References.**
 - The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. 117-58, 135 Stat. 429 (Nov. 15, 2021) <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/PLAW-117publ58/summary>
 - Training and Employment Notice 08-22, *Building Pathways to Infrastructure Careers: Framework for Preparing an Infrastructure Workforce*, published Oct. 21, 2022 <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/ten-08-22>
7. **Attachments.**
 - *Guidance to States on Addressing the Workforce Needs and Safety of the Telecommunications Industry*