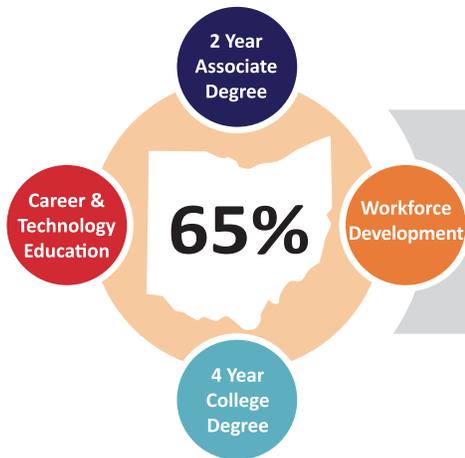




Confronting Ohio's Workforce Crisis

Ohio's ability to attract and retain jobs is the key to our economic future and hinges on the educational levels of our citizenry.



GOAL

By 2025, 65 percent of Ohioans ages 25-64 will have a degree, certificate or other postsecondary credential of value in the workforce.



What's the Problem?

Ohio has a shortage of qualified workers with the knowledge and skills necessary to fill current job vacancies or meet future workforce needs to fuel and grow a healthier state economy, provide for a more robust tax base and reduce the financial strain on public assistance programs.

According to the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, 64 percent of Ohio jobs in 2020 will require some postsecondary education credentials. Research shows that just 44 percent of working-age adults in Ohio have a postsecondary degree or certificate. Put differently, just 4 out of every 10 Ohioans currently have the skills and credentials needed to fill future jobs.

What's the Challenge?

Ohio's "gap" between job requirements and jobseeker qualifications has created an urgent need to increase the number and percentage of Ohioans who have a postsecondary degree, certificate or some other postsecondary credential of value in the workforce. We know that a high school degree, while a good foundation, is no longer sufficient for the majority of family-sustaining, well-paying jobs. The majority of those jobs will require some postsecondary credential.

In response, Ohio has established an ambitious "complete to compete" goal: *By 2025, 65 percent of Ohioans ages 25-64 will have a degree, certificate or other postsecondary workforce credential of value in the workforce.*

Boosting enrollment on this scale will require casting a wide net that targets (1) graduating high school seniors; (2) students already pursuing a postsecondary credential, but needing help to complete the work; (3) adults with some postsecondary education but lacking a marketable degree or certificate; and (4) adults who have yet to embark on a postsecondary pathway.

What's the Desired Outcome?

To meet this goal, Ohio will need to produce more than one million more recent high school graduates and working-age adults with postsecondary certificates or degrees – a large number of whom will come from low- and modest-income families, populations that historically have not widely accessed or benefited from higher education opportunities.