

Kentucky

Building the Middle Class with Better Skills and Wages: Who Would be Helped by Stronger Pathways?

39.2%	Percent of workers who need better skills and wages
	U.S. Total: 37.4%
643,682	Number of workers who need better skills and wages
	Population: 4,369,356 Labor Force: 1,643,801

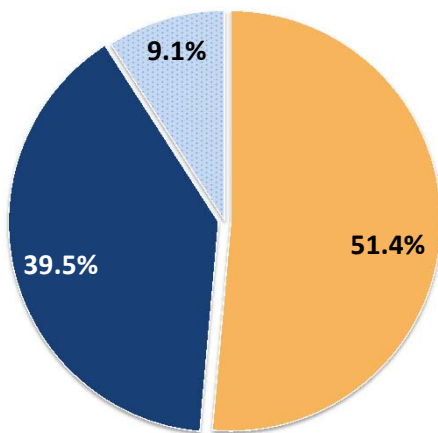
This profile focuses on workers who would benefit from expanded access to postsecondary education and training. We provide an estimate of the number of adults (ages 25-64) without two- or four-year college degrees or who have limited English skills, and who earn less than the state median wage or are in the labor force but have not worked in the last year. For that group, we offer details on employment, earnings, and education. Postsecondary education is increasingly the gateway to family-sustaining employment and these data show who can gain from that education.

Number of Workers Who Need Better Skills and Wages in Kentucky

Of adults (ages 25-64) without college degrees or with limited English language skills, those who:

Worked at least some of the last year but earned poverty-level wages	330,976
Worked at least some of the last year and earned above poverty-level wages but below the state median wage	254,085
<i>State Median Wage: \$14.60</i>	
Are seeking work but have not worked in the last year	58,621
Target Population	= 643,682

Low-Wage Workers and Job Seekers All Need Stronger Pathways



- Worked at least some of the last year but earned poverty-level wages
- Worked at least some of the last year and earned above poverty-level wages but below the state median wage
- Are seeking work but have not worked in the last year

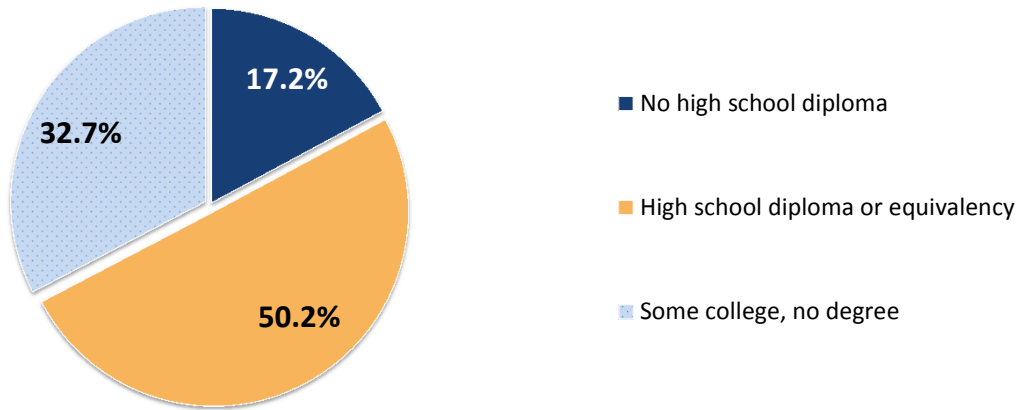
Source: COWS calculations from 2011 American Community Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. Note that this data set does not include information on certificate-holders. For detailed information on the sources and methodology, see http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/documents/files/BSW_Sources.pdf

Educational Attainment of Workers Who Need Better Skills and Wages in Kentucky

Of adults (ages 25-64) without college degrees or with limited English language skills, those who have:

No high school diploma	110,187
High school diploma or equivalency	322,195
Some college, no degree	209,868

Most Workers Who Need Stronger Pathways Have No Education Beyond High School



Characteristics of Workers that Need Better Skills and Wages in Kentucky

Of adults (ages 25-64) without college degrees or with limited English language skills:

Race/Ethnicity:		Gender:	
White non-Hispanic	539,640	Men	315,487
Black non-Hispanic	68,649	Women	328,195
Hispanic	26,170		
Other non-Hispanic	9,223		
Age:		Language proficiency:	
25 to 44 years old	367,975	Limited English language skills	15,427
45 to 64 years old	275,707		

A number of states are developing education and training strategies targeted at increasing the skills of working adults, such as career pathway systems, sector strategies, contextualized instruction, developmental education redesign, and others. Policymakers and advocates can use the information in this profile as a starting point for setting goals and designing policies and strategies to meet the unique needs of this population. Faced with budget pressures, policymakers should also consider strategies to align a range of private and public funding sources, such as the Workforce Investment Act, Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, the Higher Education Act, and state and local funding.

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