

## Workforce Crisis Calls for Urgent Action



American business leaders across geographies and industries united yesterday to rally for policies to alleviate America’s worker shortage.

At the [Workforce: A Call to Action](#) summit, business and government leaders examined the challenges for employers to get the workers they need, covering issues like worker training, child care, and immigration reform.

It’s part of the Chamber’s [America Works](#) initiative that focuses on ensuring our economy has the workers it needs to fuel a strong economic recovery.

### What they said:

- **Public-private engagement:** “There has to be dynamic and really constant engagement between the public and the private sector,” Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said in a keynote conversation with Chamber President and CEO Suzanne Clark. “Businesses need to change the way they hire. It is still the case that many companies are searching for people with a four-year college degree to do a job that doesn't necessarily require a four-year college degree.”
- **Developing good training programs:** “Our partnership with the chamber, and the entire business community, allows us to hear from employers directly and make certain that Kentucky students are receiving the in-demand training that they need to prepare for and to fill those jobs of the future,” said Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Jacqueline Coleman.

- **Addressing child care:** “There is money out there that can be used to incentivize workers coming back to work,” Linda Smith, Director of the Early Childhood Development Initiative at the Bipartisan Policy Center said about funding . “And it can help stabilize the business model for the short term and hopefully give us something to build off of in the next few years.”
- **Accessing a global talent pool:** “We need workers from the high tech arena, we need workers in customer service, we need workers for in-house technical expertise,” said Susan Bitter Smith, Executive Director, Southwest Cable Communications Association. “Federally, there are many things that could be done to help us fill those needed positions.”

**Our take:** “No single policy or idea will fix this. But if we address these challenges holistically, if we harness the power of employer-led solutions and work with our public sector partners, we will get the job done,” said Clark.

**Take action:** It’s not too late to tell your leaders what needs to be done.

- **Tell Congress** to pass the [America Works Agenda](#).
- **Tell Congress** to [increase employment-based immigration and visas](#).
- **Tell your governor** to [invest in job training and childcare](#).
- **Be heard** on [social media using this toolkit](#).

**ICYMI:** Check out some of the great coverage surrounding the launch of America Works.

- The Hill: [Chamber of Commerce: Worker shortage crisis deepening](#)
- CNN Business: [Chamber of Commerce: Worker shortage can't be solved without ramping up immigration](#)
- Fox Business: [Chamber of Commerce warns of worsening worker shortage: 'A national economic crisis'](#)

**Learn more:**

- Watch the [Workforce: A Call to Action](#) summit.
- Visit the [America Works page](#).