

NATIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Current Strategy | Future Opportunities

Economic Recovery & Career Development

Entering 2020, no one could have predicted the way that our lives and expectations would be turned upside down in a few short months. This is also true for our advocacy strategy for NCDA.

Higher education and workforce development were top of mind for our team and remain so today. However, now the focus is on pressuring Congress to invest in career development as they consider steps to get the economy back on track and the 20 million plus unemployed Americans back to work.

Prior to the crisis, we'd achieved two major victories - House Democrats introduced an apprenticeship bill that incorporated NCDA counseling priorities throughout and Representatives Langevin (D-RI) and Thompson (R-PA) introduced the Counseling for Career Choice Act which provides grants to implement statewide career counseling frameworks.

Additionally, we've worked closely with the Coalition for Career Development and deepened our coordination with the American Counseling Association.

The Next 6 Months

As we look forward, we're focused exclusively on COVID recovery and urging Congress to include funding for career development in recovery legislation. At this point, we anticipate one more stimulus bill this Congress and if the Democrats control DC next year, there will likely be multiple pieces of legislation that fund efforts to help people recover from this recession and get back on their feet.

Stimulus & the Workforce

Congress is turning its attention to how to get over 20 million unemployed Americans back to work. We anticipate that the next stimulus package will have some provisions for this but currently there is no clarity on what will be in that bill and how much money will be in the bill.

We've spoken with staff and advocated for future stimulus legislation to include the principles of the Counseling for Career Choice Act and the House draft legislation to reauthorize the National Apprenticeship Act. Both bills fund career counseling in the education and workforce development systems, respectively.

Funding Education

Education at every level is in crisis. State and local budgets have been decimated and institutions of higher learning are staring at incredible shortfalls. We are asking Congress to provide assistance so that valuable services like career development, which are often the first ones cut, will survive at a time when they're needed more than ever.