

PROMOTING CAREERS IN THE SKILLED TRADES

THE ISSUE

A severe shortage of labor in the construction industry is worsening the housing affordability crisis through higher home building costs and construction delays.

Any given month, there is a **shortage of roughly 200,000 to 400,000 construction workers**.

Home builders will need to **add 2.2 million new workers over the next three years** just to keep up with demand.

THE SOLUTION

Policymakers at all levels of government can help by supporting funding for building and construction trades education and providing more placement services to job seekers.

In addition to promoting training and jobs in the trades, Congress can help by seeking sensible immigration policies that preserve and expand existing temporary work visa programs while also creating new market-based visa programs that will accurately match demand with available labor, which in turn:

- Solves the issue of the millions of undocumented workers already in the U.S.
- Makes it easier for people to enter the U.S. to work in the construction industry.
- Creates an employee verification system that gives employers confidence they are hiring legal immigrants.

NAHB is working diligently to address this problem by training more workers in the construction industry through its workforce partner, the Home Builders Institute (HBI). HBI is the nation's leading nonprofit provider of trade skills education for the building industry. Nearly 20,000 students in 48 states and Puerto Rico are currently served in 710 of its programs.