

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TradesFutures Receives \$1.5 Million Award from The Families and Workers Fund to Expand Access to Quality Construction Careers

Washington, D.C. - *July 31, 2025* - [TradesFutures](#) is proud to announce it has been awarded \$1.5 million by [The Families and Workers Fund](#) (FWF) to expand opportunities for thousands of people living on low incomes to access family-sustaining construction careers through high-quality apprenticeship pathways.

Over the next two years, this grant will help TradesFutures strengthen its national network of over 250 Apprenticeship Readiness Programs (ARPs) operating in 34 states. The funding will enable TradesFutures to more effectively train at least 12,000 individuals, connecting them with registered apprenticeships that offer pathways to good-paying, stable jobs in the construction industry.

"Receiving this grant is a testament to the power of community-driven workforce development," said Marina Zhavoronkova, Executive Director of TradesFutures. "With this support, we can scale best practices across our network, deepen partnerships with local and state governments, and help deliver on billions in new infrastructure investments while ensuring underrepresented communities benefit from these opportunities."

The Families and Workers Fund's funding will also support the **TradesFutures' Infrastructure Pathways Project (IPP)**, in partnership with [Equal Rights Advocates](#) (ERA). This initiative will help select jurisdictions implement workforce strategies that align community needs with the demand created by over \$20 billion in federally funded construction projects.

Through this investment, TradesFutures aims to advance equitable access to good jobs, with a focus on people of color, women, and others historically excluded from construction careers. Currently, 80% of ARP graduates are people of color, 20% are women and 87% do not have a college degree.

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About TradesFutures: TradesFutures is a non-profit corporation organized to develop, promote, and improve Apprenticeship Readiness Programs ("ARPs"). ARPs are educational programs that provide students with the fundamental skills and knowledge necessary to choose, obtain, and succeed in a formal, registered apprenticeship in the construction industry. TradesFutures is also dedicated to assisting women, veterans, and people of color in establishing and maintaining careers in the construction industry. Learn more about

TradesFutures and its work to develop a more diverse and accessible quality construction workforce at tradesfutures.org.

About the Families and Workers Fund: The Families and Workers Fund is a platform for collective action and a pooled \$130 million collaborative fund chaired by the Ford Foundation and supported by 25 diverse funders working together to build a more equitable economy that uplifts all. The Fund deploys catalytic partnerships and collaboration across philanthropy, government, and the private sector to develop a more inclusive, effective public benefits system and to advance jobs that sustain and uplift people. To date, the Fund has committed more than \$77 million in grants and strategic partnerships, directly impacted millions of people, and leveraged more than \$15 billion in additional public and private investments. Key funders include the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Ballmer Group, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Ford Foundation, Freedom Together Foundation, Gates Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, and JPMorgan Chase, among others. The Families and Workers Fund is housed at the Amalgamated Foundation, an independent 501(c)(3) charity

About Equal Rights Advocates: Equal Rights Advocates fights for gender justice in workplaces and schools across the country. Since 1974, they have been fighting on the front lines of social justice to protect and advance rights and opportunities for women, girls, and people of all gender identities through groundbreaking legal cases and bold legislation that sets the stage for the rest of the nation.