



Opportunities for Adult Basic Education (ABE) under the Recovery Act

Center for State Innovation Webinar

July 6, 2009

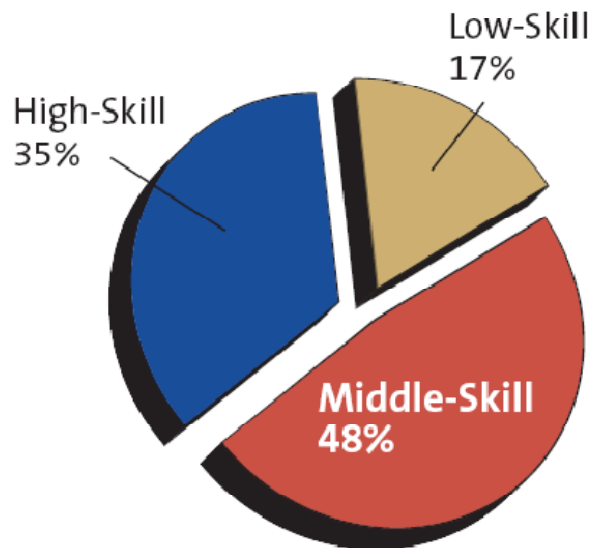
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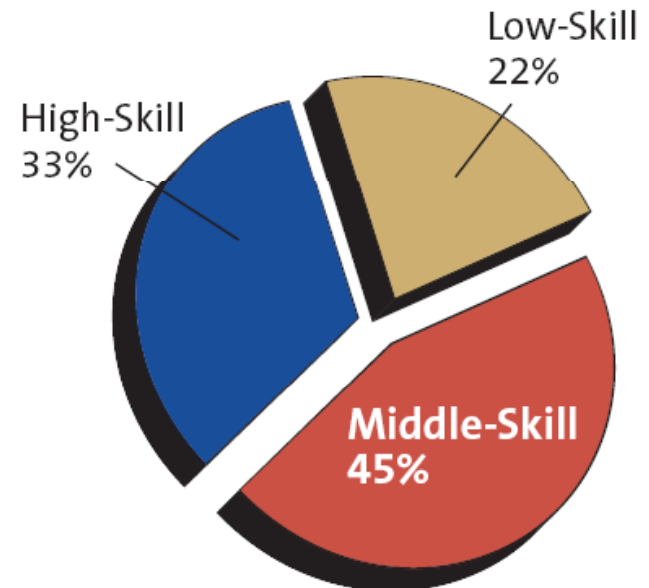
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Demand for Middle-Skill Jobs is Strong, Will Remain Strong in the U.S.

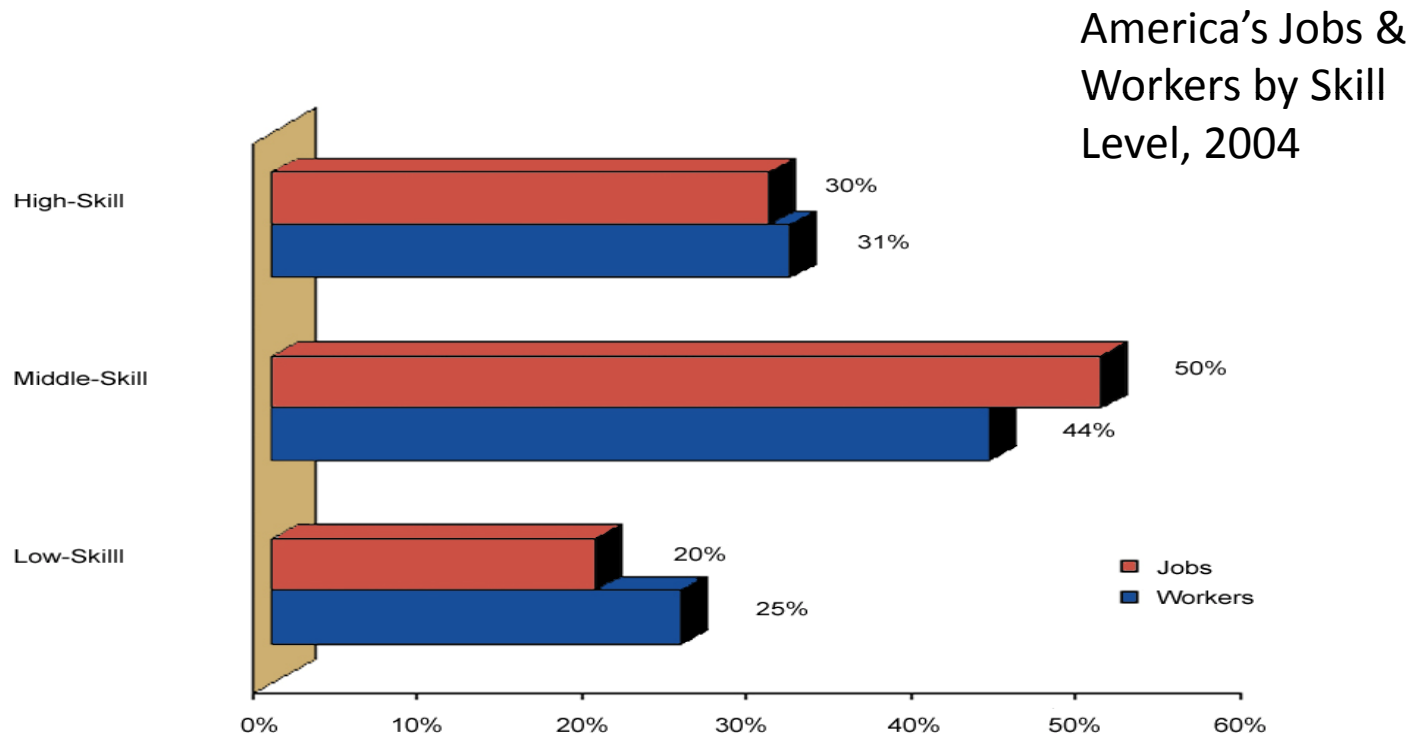
U.S. Jobs by Skill Level, 2006



U.S. Job Openings by Skill Level, 2004-2014



America's Skills Mismatch: A Middle-Skill Gap



Lots of Interest in Skills Attainment— Including Basic Skills—in D.C.

President Obama has challenged “every American to commit to at least one year or more of higher education or career training. This can be community college or a four-year school; vocational training or an apprenticeship. But whatever the training may be, every American will need to get more than a high school diploma.”



Expectations for Workforce System under Recovery Act

**An “extraordinary and
unique opportunity”**

versus

“quickly and effectively”



Opportunities to Promote Basic Skills under the Recovery Act



- DOL guidance has consistently focused on:
 - ✓ More training
 - ✓ Longer-term training
 - ✓ Focus on low-skill and low-income individuals
 - ✓ Needs-based payments and supportive services
 - ✓ Career pathways and sector partnerships



If it Matters, Count It

Supplemental monthly reports must contain aggregate counts of participants who are:

- ✓ Low-income
- ✓ Receiving TANF or other public assistance
- ✓ UI claimants
- ✓ Veterans
- ✓ Individuals w/disabilities

As well as data on numbers in training, type of training, and numbers receiving supportive services



Other Opportunities: DOL Competitive Grants



- **Green jobs:** focus on developing statewide strategy, emphasis on ensuring low-skill individuals and low-income communities benefit
- **Health care:** likely focus on all allied health care fields, emphasis on career pathways

Recovery to Reauthorization



Important to connect work begun under Recovery Act to advocacy around WIA reauthorization (and other federal workforce programs)