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**Home Builders Institute (HBI), The National Housing Endowment, and  
The Home Depot Foundation Call for Applications to Free Trade Skills Training  
and Certification for U.S. High School Students**

**Washington, DC** – As growth rises nationwide in residential construction jobs, three major nonprofit organizations are providing a no-cost program to train middle and high school students in skilled trades for the building industry.

The Home Builders Institute (HBI), The National Housing Endowment, and The Home Depot Foundation, are currently accepting new applications from schools for their “Schools-to-Skills” program. The program trains young people in trade skills to help fill the persistent labor shortage in residential construction. It provides students with industry-recognized training and certification, through both hands-on teaching and virtual learning. The program also provides job placement services, through a variety of partners including the National Association of Home Builders and its 700 local and state associations.

Neither schools nor students are charged for the program. Applications are due March 31, 2021.

“The Schools-to-Skills program is especially valuable to young people today as they face a job market during an unprecedentedly disrupted economy,” said Ed Brady, HBI’s president and CEO. “In contrast to previous recessions, the buoyant housing market during the pandemic has helped propel hiring in well-paying occupations in the trades.”

According to government data, the residential construction industry is short more than 200,000 workers. Economists predict the U.S. will continue to see sustained strength in the demand for labor in the construction area, particularly housing.

Now in its third year, Schools-to-Skills is funded by The National Housing Endowment and The Home Depot Foundation to support secondary schools in their construction trades programs.

"Through the Skilled Labor Fund, the National Housing Endowment is proud to support Schools-to-Skills given the huge opportunities for young people to build careers in residential skilled trades. Partnering with HBI and The Home Depot Foundation, two organizations leading the workforce development charge, ensures quality curriculum, training and positive student outcomes," said Mark Pursell, CEO of the Endowment.

Schools-to-Skills is a two-year, pre-apprenticeship certification training currently offered in 47 schools in 15 states. The program is one of only three national curricula recognized and approved by the U.S. Department of Labor and several state departments of education. It aligns with the STEM educational model, which is based on the discipline areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

"The growing and profitable residential construction industry provides an abundance of opportunities for our nation's youth, and Schools-to-Skills is instrumental in preparing participants for those career possibilities," said Heather Prill, The Home Depot Foundation's senior manager of strategic partnerships. "This effort, along with the other work through our Path to Pro program, allows us to position future generations in meaningful careers and do our part toward filling the skilled labor gap."

The Home Depot Foundation and HBI also support 10 U.S. military bases with a trades training program for separating military members.

For more information on Schools-to-Skills, visit: [www.hbi.org/s2s](http://www.hbi.org/s2s)

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#### **About The Home Depot Foundation**

The Home Depot Foundation works to improve the homes and lives of U.S. veterans, train skilled tradespeople to fill the labor gap and support communities impacted by natural disasters. To date, the Foundation has invested more than \$350 million in support of veterans in need and improved more than 48,000 veteran homes and facilities in more than 4,500 cities. The Foundation has pledged to invest half of a billion dollars in veteran causes by 2025.

#### **About The National Housing Endowment**

Founded in 1987 by NAHB and a visionary group of leaders and icons in the housing industry, the National Housing Endowment works to "build a foundation" to help make the American dream of home ownership a reality for present and future generations. Visit [www.nationalhousingendowment.org](http://www.nationalhousingendowment.org) for more information.

#### ***About Home Builders Institute (HBI)***

*The Home Builders Institute (HBI) trains skilled workers for the building industry. Through pre-apprenticeship training, certification programs and job placement services, HBI provides graduates—high school students, at-risk youth, veterans, transitioning military personnel, justice-involved youth and adults, and displaced workers—with the skills and experience they need to build a career and change their lives. Visit [www.hbi.org](http://www.hbi.org) for more information and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).*