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**Application Deadline Approaches for Free “Schools to Skills” Program
*Training Secondary School Students in the Building Trades Enters Fourth Year***

November 3, 2021, Washington, D.C. – The deadline for U.S. secondary schools to apply for a grant to adopt a nationally recognized curriculum in the construction trades is December 10, 2021. Through the financial support of The Home Depot Foundation and The National Housing Endowment, the Schools to Skills program is conducted by the Home Builders Institute (HBI).

“The decision to apply for this grant is a no-brainer,” said Ed Brady, HBI’s president and CEO. “It’s a quick and easy application, with no need for a grant writer. And if a school wants to bring back what we used to call ‘shop class,’ School to Skills is the ticket.”

Entering its fourth year, Schools to Skills already has funded \$1.3 million in skills training in 121 schools in 29 states from fall 2019 through spring 2022.

A 30-year career builder and former chair of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), Brady said Schools to Skills brings into a school HBI’s award-winning Pre-Apprentice Certificate Training (PACT). Upon completion graduates receive a certification, in nine construction trade specialty areas, which is recognized and validated by the building industry.

Neither schools nor students are charged for the curriculum or training. PACT, which aligns with the STEM educational model, is one of only three national curriculums approved by the U.S. Department of Labor and several state departments of education.

HBI’s Schools to Skills also connects students and schools with a variety of partners including 700 local and state home builders’ associations. HBI works ongoingly with the schools which adopt the PACT curriculum to assure maximum success for teachers and students, Brady said.

“For young women and men who like the idea of a good-paying job after graduation, but may not want to go on to four years of college, gaining a valuable trade skill promises great opportunities,” said the chief executive. “Home builders are looking for smart, hard-working, and ambitious team members. Best of all, they’re willing to pay them well.”

Half of payroll workers in construction earn more than \$50,460 annually and the top 25 percent make at least \$71,000, according to HBI. “The demand for skilled building trade workers remains very high,” said Brady. “We estimate the number of open construction sector jobs currently averages between 300,000 to 400,000 each month.”

For the current and past two school years, Schools to Skills has funded training in the following states: Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

To apply, educators should visit: www.hbi.org/s2s

Have a question? E-mail: partnerships@hbi.org

About The Home Depot Foundation

[The Home Depot Foundation](http://HomeDepotFoundation.org) 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. Since 2011, the Foundation has invested more than \$375 million in veteran causes and improved more than 50,000 veteran homes and facilities. The Foundation has pledged to invest half of a billion dollars in veteran causes by 2025 and \$50 million in training the next generation of skilled tradespeople through the Path to Pro program. To learn more about The Home Depot Foundation visit HomeDepotFoundation.org and follow us on Twitter @HomeDepotFound and on Facebook and Instagram @HomeDepotFoundation.

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](http://NationalHousingEndowment.org) works to “build a foundation” to help make the American dream of home ownership a reality for present and future generations.

About Home Builders Institute (HBI)

[The Home Builders Institute \(HBI\)](http://TheHomeBuildersInstitute.org) trains skilled workers for the building industry. Through pre-apprenticeship training, certification programs and job placement services, HBI provides graduates with the skills and experience they need to build a career and change their lives.