

## Talking Points for Advocates: Perkins IV

- Career and technical education (CTE) is a powerful strategy to advance economic self-sufficiency for women in transition and their families. Single parents and displaced homemakers thrive in CTE when they have access to programs and support services that meet their unique and complex needs.
- In 1998, Congress overhauled the federal career and technical education program and eliminated set aside funding for gender equity programs.
- As a result, many programs for displaced homemakers and single parents were forced to shut their doors, despite the millions of women still in need of assistance. Reports from students showed a drastic decrease in services such as training, and child care, transportation and tuition assistance.
- This August, Congress passed a new Perkins law that puts funding back on track for programs that help displaced homemakers and single parents succeed in CTE.
- The new Perkins Act requires every local community college that receives Perkins funding to spend funds on activities that prepare displaced homemakers, single parents, and other special populations for high wage, high skill jobs that lead to economic self-sufficiency.