



Industrial Assessment Centers at Community Colleges, Trade Schools, and Union Training Programs

Since 1976, the Industrial Assessment Centers (IACs) have operated with bipartisan support to assist small and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs) to save energy, improve productivity, and reduce waste by providing no-cost technical assessments, and to train the next generation of energy professionals. DOE supports IACs at 37 four-year institutions of higher education (IHEs).

Now, the program is growing and evolving.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds the creation of new IACs at community colleges, trade schools, and union training programs. The new IAC's will build upon the success of the applied learning environment and hands-on training approach of the traditional IACs, while **expanding the types of institutions and training programs covered by the program** (see graphic).

New IACs' Objectives

1. **Support inclusive workforce development efforts** to strengthen America's competitive advantage in the clean energy economy; and
2. **Enhance energy performance and reduce emissions** at small- and medium-sized manufacturing facilities.

Program Outcomes

- Expanded IAC network, particularly in disadvantaged communities;
- Expanded access to high-quality workforce pathways crucial to the clean energy transition, and that do not require a Bachelor's degree;
- Strengthened workforce ecosystems for emerging clean energy manufacturing industries;
- Reduced energy costs and increased productivity at SMMs; and
- Additional access to no-cost technical assistance for SMMs, leading to a strengthened U.S. manufacturing base.

Community Benefits

The new IACs will:

- **Support the Justice40 initiative** by increasing energy affordability and driving federal investment in disadvantaged communities
- **Advance meaningful engagement with community and labor partners**, building toward career pathways with high job quality

Learn More

Read about the new IACs and broader IAC Program, and sign up for alerts for funding opportunities, through MESOC's website using the QR Code at right.



Expansion 1: New types of edu/workforce institutions

- Community colleges
- Technical and trade schools
- Union training programs and labor-management training programs
- Apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeships, internships
- Upskilling for incumbent workers
- Education/Workforce-Industry partnerships

Core IAC strengths

Dual mission of SMM strengthening & workforce training
 Emphasis on no-cost TA for SMMs & hands-on training for students/workers
 Ongoing adaptation to meet new needs (e.g., decarb., resiliency, smart manufacturing)
 Locally-rooted efforts responsive to regional priorities

Expansion 2: New career pathways (& related SMM services)

Examples:

- AS degree paths into engineering
- Industrial energy efficiency trades (e.g., HVAC technician, electrician)
- Digitally enabled production (e.g., machinists)
- Metalworkers (e.g., welders)
- Other technician and non-BA roles for relevant advanced mfg. tech