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From 2020 to 2023, The Corps Network participated as a partner in [Better Buildings Workforce Accelerator](#) (BBWA). The BBWA is a Department of Energy initiative seeking to raise the level of building science and energy efficiency knowledge in the nation's building-related workforce. Through the BBWA, DOE engaged industry partners in activities that build interest and awareness, streamline pathways, and improve skills for people pursuing green building careers.

The Corps Network (TCN) engaged with the BBWA for technical assistance to develop a roadmap of energy efficiency education and training models that can be replicated by Corps nationwide.

About the Partner

TCN is the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps. Founded in 1985, TCN supports nearly 150 Corps that operate in communities across the country, through advocacy, funding, and technical assistance. Corps are locally based organizations that provide young adults and veterans with education, skill development, and hands-on work experience through projects that mitigate climate change, conserve and preserve natural resources, and improve the communities in which they are located. Some of these corps include AmeriCorps NCCC, Student Conservation Association, Groundwork USA, and many other similarly-structured organizations that provide people with work experience in the conservation field, including in the built environment.

In 2022, over 22,000 Corpsmembers accumulated 227,665 service hours, earned 12,373 industry-recognized certifications, and completed 2,321 home weatherization projects. Learn more about TCN members, programs, and participants in the [FY22 Annual Report](#).

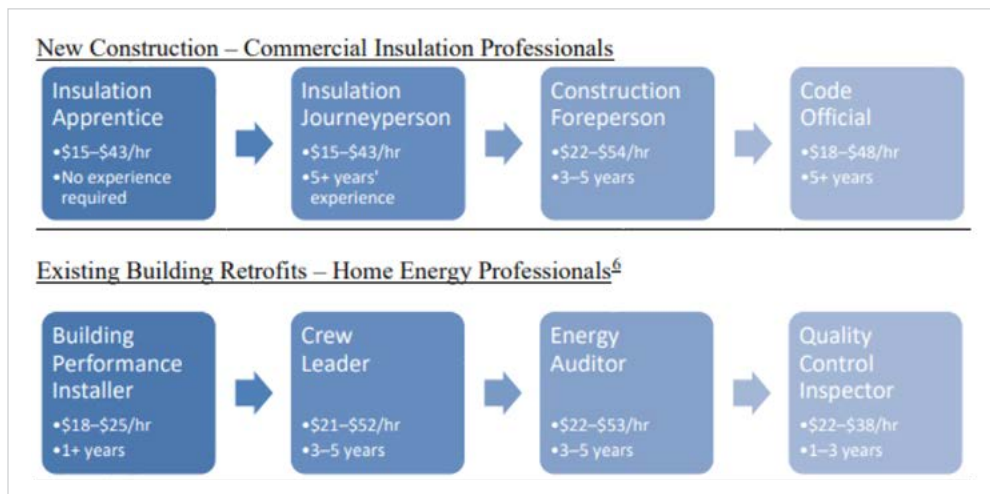
About the Program

TCN requested technical assistance from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) through the BBWA to support Corps organizations involved in, or developing, programs related to energy efficiency in buildings. Working with the NREL Technical Assistance team, they developed a roadmap of energy efficiency education and training models that can be tailored and replicated by Corps across the country to prepare Corpsmembers for energy efficiency jobs. Because most Corps programs in energy efficiency are already engaged in residential job training, much of the roadmap focuses on home energy professionals (HEP) - people involved in retrofitting existing homes to make them healthier, safer, and more energy efficient. HEP jobs offer a clear and industry-recognized pathway and incorporate a wide variety of skills that are highly transferable to many of the other energy efficiency industry subsectors such as

AT A GLANCE

- ▶ **Partner:** The Corps Network
- ▶ **Project:** "Education, Training and Career Pathway Opportunities for Buildings Energy Efficiency Programs Within the Corps Network"
- ▶ **Program Location:** National
- ▶ **Audience Served:** Job Seekers
- ▶ **Better Buildings Workforce Accelerator Focus Area(s):** Improve Skills, Streamline Career Pathways





Example of two career pathways. Adapted from <https://greenbuildingscareemap.org/>

heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), insulation, carpentry, and others. The framework they developed is widely applicable beyond Corpsmembers.

The published technical assistance report, entitled “Education, Training and Career Pathway Opportunities for Buildings Energy Efficiency Programs Within the Corps Network” includes:

► **Careers and career pathways in energy efficiency**

- This section outlines an array of possible career pathway opportunities and different union-based apprenticeship programs. Careers addressed include construction, manufacturing, and professional services for both new construction and retrofit work. This includes a regional analysis of the energy efficiency market in three specific locations.

► **Knowledge, skills, and certifications recommended or required for those pathways**

- This section focuses on HEP, offering a detailed table of preferred education,

experience certifications and skills. Corps programs can use the table to identify where and what they have capacity to address to prepare their Corpsmembers for potential employment in the industry upon program completion.

► **Existing training programs and resources for Corpsmembers**

- A variety of educational programs and training resources that Corpsmembers can use to advance their careers as HEPs are listed in this section. This includes in-person and online training, as well as industry-vetted resources that were largely developed for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), a national low-income energy efficiency retrofit program that was the origin of many current energy efficiency job classifications and certifications.

This case study was developed with content from the Corps Network’s technical assistance report, website, and FY22 Annual Report.