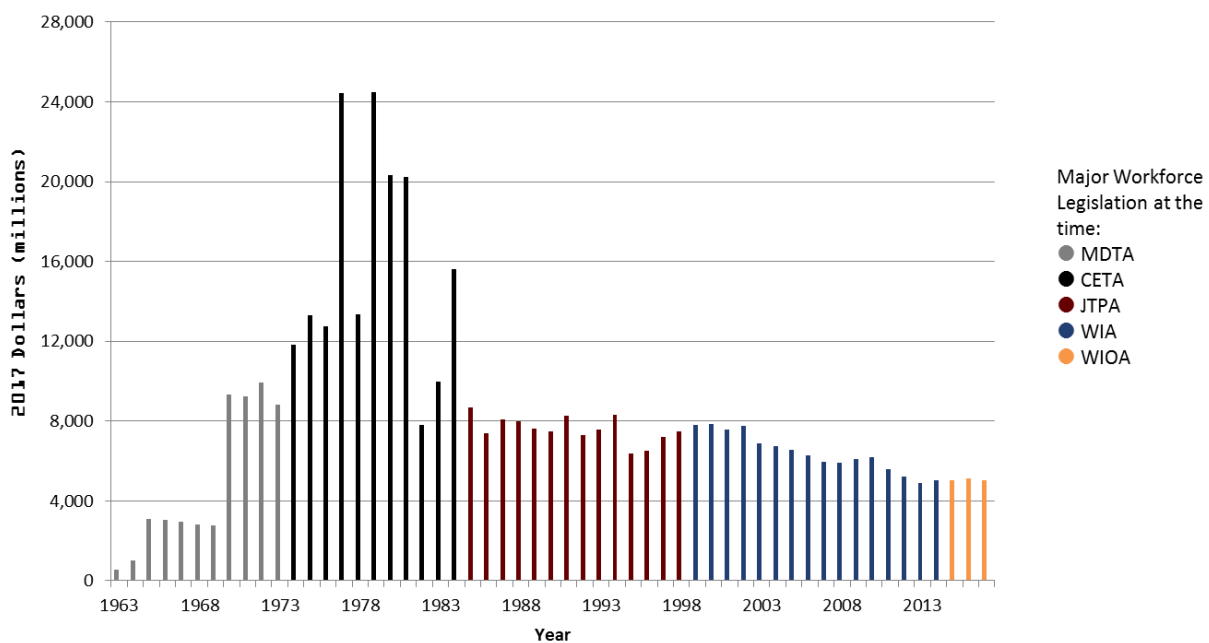


Federal Investment in Employment and Job Training Services Has Declined Over the Last 40 Years

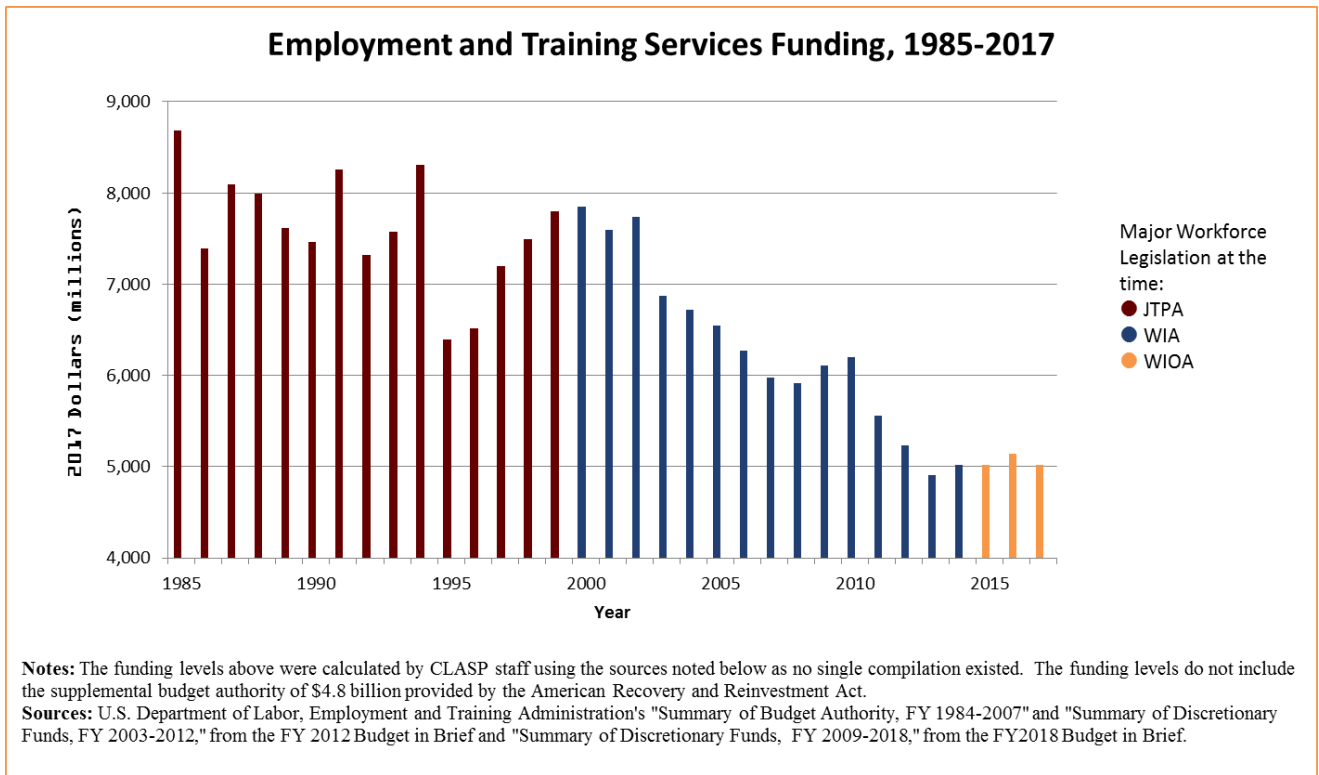
After providing an all-time high of \$24 billion in the late 1970s (in constant 2017 dollars), Congress has significantly reduced our nation’s investment in workforce training and employment services at the U.S. Department of Labor to about \$5 billion a year today. These services can play a vital role in helping unemployed and low-income people move out of poverty and into better jobs with family sustaining wages. Yet these programs are currently not being funded even at the authorized levels specified in the 2014 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) that Congress passed in a nearly unanimous bipartisan vote.

Employment and Training Services Funding, 1963-2017



Notes: The funding levels above were calculated by CLASP staff using the sources noted below as no single compilation existed. The funding levels do not include the supplemental budget authority of \$4.8 billion provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
Sources: Jonathan Simonetta, "Appendix A, Table A.1," in *Job Training Policy in the United States*, 2003 and U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration's "Summary of Budget Authority, FY 1984-2007" and "Summary of Discretionary Funds, FY 2003-2012," from the FY 2012 Budget in Brief and "Summary of Discretionary Funds, FY 2009-2018," from the FY 2018 Budget in Brief.

From 1985 to 2000, funding for employment and training remained nearly constant, at around \$7-8 billion per year (in 2017 dollars). By increasing nominal funding in 11 out of 15 years, Congress maintained level funding in real terms. Without nominal year-over-year increases, “flat funding” is actually a cut in real terms, as inflation and population growth combine to reduce the program’s ability to deliver equivalent services.



Since the early 2000s, employment and training programs have been cut significantly, from the steady \$7-8 billion level to around \$5 billion, where it has remained for a few years. Current funding levels are not sufficient to provide the employment and training services that **individuals with barriers to employment** need to move out of **poverty** and into **good jobs**.

