

**Sponsors: Northern California Power Agency; Southern California Public Power Authority;
Trinity Public Utilities District; Florida Municipal Electric Association; New York Association of
Public Power**

Federal Support for Utility Workforce Development Efforts

Electric utilities face considerable challenges in securing and training an adequate workforce. Technological advances, the aging workforce, and demographics pose challenges in recruiting, training, and retaining a skilled workforce to meet the rapidly changing demands of the electric utility sector. These problems are even more challenging for smaller public power systems that lack the recruitment and training resources of larger investor-owned utilities.

Congress is considering efforts to address the growing workforce needs of the electric utility sector. Legislation has been introduced to expand science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, boost technical training and college opportunities for under-served communities, and coordinate resources between the federal government and educational and job-training resource providers.

Efforts focused on expanding the pool of skilled workers is an integral step in addressing the workforce needs of the electric utility sector. Public power utilities, with unique ties to their local communities, support these efforts and are eager to participate in new and expanded programs.

There is also a significant need for continuing education for existing employees to ensure they acquire and maintain the skills needed to meet the growing technological demands of the industry. For smaller utilities, the local training opportunities can be scarce, and the cost to acquire needed training prohibitive. Authorizing local governmental agency access to federal workforce training resources for continuing education efforts would provide critically needed resources to ensure public power utilities can meet the growing demands of a rapidly evolving industry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the American Public Power Association (APPA) supports efforts to expand workforce training opportunities and resources for the electric utility sector, including efforts aimed at K-12, vocational, and college education and training; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That APPA urges Congress to ensure the eligibility of local governmental entities in the workforce activities anticipated under any legislation; and

30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That APPA calls on Congress and the Administration to include
31 continuing education for utility employees among the eligible programs and activities for federal
32 workforce development agencies' resources.

**As adopted June 14, 2016, by the membership of the American Public Power Association at its
annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona.**