

**U.S. Department of Labor**

Employment and Training Administration  
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20210



June 30, 2021

The Honorable Jon Tester  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Tester:

The U.S. Department of Labor (Department) received your letter regarding the resumption of on-center operations at Job Corps centers, especially those located in Montana. Your letter was forwarded to the Department's Employment and Training Administration (ETA), which has oversight of the Job Corps program, for a response.

As stated in your letter, ensuring the safety of students and staff at all Job Corps centers is paramount, and Job Corps continues to prioritize student safety while taking meaningful steps towards resuming on-center operations. In March 2020, Job Corps, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, returned its residential students to their homes or other designated residences and paused new student enrollments to minimize the health risks that COVID-19 posed to students. Beginning in April 2020, Job Corps quickly transitioned students to distance learning to keep students engaged in the program from home.

In September 2020, Job Corps released guidance to centers requiring implementation of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and other COVID-19 safety protocols for the phased resumption of on-center operations. Since then, 111 Job Corps centers have been approved to return students to campus, including the Anaconda and Trapper Creek Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers (CCC), bringing Job Corps close to achieving the goal of resumption of on-campus operations for all centers.

Job Corps has moved to the next phase by releasing guidance for virtual enrollment in April 2021, allowing students to complete a 60-day Career Preparation Period via distance learning before transitioning to on-campus participation for their academic and career skills instruction.

Recently, Job Corps center operators developed and submitted their virtual enrollment operational plans. The Anaconda Job Corps CCC received its approval to begin virtual enrollment on May 21, 2021. The Trapper Creek Job Corps CCC will receive its approval in the upcoming weeks. The final phase will include the resumption of in-person enrollment of new students for full-time, residential participation.

However, since student safety continues to be the main priority, Job Corps will continue to monitor CDC, state, local, and health officials' guidelines to inform the continued return of students to Job Corps centers. As conditions improve, we hope to resume standard enrollment for full-time, on-campus participation. As Job Corps continues its phased approach, we

encourage you to use the Back to Job Corps site at <https://info.joinjobcorps.com/backtojobcorps> for information on Job Corps centers as they resume enrollment.

Should you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact the Department's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 693-4600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Suzan G. LeVine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Suzan" being more prominent.

Suzan G. LeVine  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary