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Report will argue for increased aid to community college students

JAY MILLER 

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The study, "Work, Skills, Community: Restoring Opportunity for the Working Class," argues that getting this group back working at jobs that will support families should be a major goal of the next Congress.

The group members, from [Opportunity America](#), the [American Enterprise Institute](#), the [Brookings Institution](#), the [Progressive Policy Institute](#) and the [Aspen Institute's Future of Work Initiative](#), spent a year working on policy proposals to expand opportunity and will be releasing its report in November. The group members and their organizations advance centrist liberal and conservative ideas.

A group of the authors were in Northeast Ohio on Monday, Oct. 1, for a series of meetings with local economic planners, media and others to get feedback on their work before the release of the report.

"The thing that ties us together the most, is work — the skills to get to work, (adequate) wages to draw people back into the workforce, lower the barriers to work," Tamar Jacoby, president of Opportunity America, said in a visit to Crain's. "I suppose it's a bad soundbite, but 'Put the work back in working class,' is sort of our bumper sticker."

One of the strongest policy goals of the study is restructuring federal education financial aid to increase the aid for community college students and reduce aid available for students from upper-middle income families who attend four-year colleges.

"The promise of college for all has proved a false lure," the report will state. "Recent years have seen burgeoning interest in career and technical skills and promising experimentation with programs designed to prepare young people for work."

Inline Play

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