



AFL-CIO NEXT UP
YOUNG
WORKER
SUMMIT

MARCH
19-22
2015

HILTON CHICAGO, 720 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE

Join the AFL-CIO Young Worker Advisory Council and hundreds of young workers from across the country for the **2015 Next Up Young Worker Summit**. The summit will bring together labor, community and youth activists for big-picture conversations about the economy, practical training for worker organizing and advocacy campaigns, and strategic planning for regional and community young worker activism. Let's build our future together—join us!

We're already hard at work brainstorming the agenda, but we could use your help. Visit <http://go.aflcio.org/NextUpBrainstorm> and submit your workshop recommendations today!



PROGRAM SUMMARY

BY THE YEAR 2020, MILLENNIALS (the generation born between 1980 and 2000) will be a majority of the American electorate. But only 7% of them have a union on the job. Workers younger than age 35 are only half as likely to be in a union as older workers. If we don't start to engage, organize and develop young workers, we place our entire movement at risk.

And never has the labor movement been more important to a generation of workers. Millennials are facing one of the most dire economic outlooks in U.S. history. Millennials may be the first generation of workers to be less well off than their parents. They face double-digit unemployment rates, costs of higher education that are rising exponentially, flat wages and a corporate culture that's conditioning an entire generation of workers to accept an economy that only works for the wealthy.

Despite all of this, the vast majority of young workers think unions are necessary, and the approval ratings of unions are higher among young workers than any other generation—by double digits. We have an opportunity to organize this generation. It's time to take it.

That's why the AFL-CIO has made young worker organizing a priority for our movement. The passage of Resolution 19 at the AFL-CIO Convention in September 2013 committed the AFL-CIO to triple the number of young worker groups before 2017. But we're not just organizing young worker groups because it sounds good—we're organizing young worker groups that can:

- Help drive a pro-worker, pro-youth economic agenda in communities around the country by building local youth movements capable of influencing public policy and legislation;
- Mobilize around the labor movement's political priorities, including helping to elect pro-worker candidates at the federal, state and municipal levels;
- Support affiliate organizing campaigns;
- Connect with other youth progressive organizations; and
- Help bring together coalitions of young workers, union and nonunion, that will shift the balance of power in our communities and prime the next generation of workers to organize their workplaces.

State federations and central labor councils should include young workers in their planning processes, incorporate them into the overall program work of their federation and provide support, through both resolutions and resources, for the formation of a young worker group that is part of their organization.