CCT CARPENTER CONTRACTOR TRUST®

THE PUBLIC COST OF LOW WAGES IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

A recent study by the UC Berkley Labor Center found that **39% of families of construction workers are enrolled in one or more safety net program**. This alone costs taxpayers almost **$28 billion per year**. But there are many more public costs associated with tax fraud and wage theft in the U.S. construction industry:

Social Security & Medicare losses: $1.36 to $4.28 billion	**Federal income tax losses: $319 million to $1.26 billion**	**State income tax revenue losses: $160 to $552 million**

This loss in tax revenue reduces and sometimes eliminates funding for town programs, social services, veteran programs and other important offerings.

Protected vs. Unprotected Wages:

Union workers can afford to work and take care of their families. They earn a living wage with career mobility and the ability to sustain a growing family – with benefits, high quality training, and safe worksites backed by workers' compensation plans.

In contrast, non-union workers often find themselves in some of the worst working conditions imaginable. They are often exploited, underpaid, and benefits aren't always available. **In fact, unrepresented labor forces often fall prey to forced labor through intimidation practices and worker misclassification.**

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