In the recovering economy, employers will play a central role as Americans look to reskill, upskill, and compete in the workforce. But what do people want and expect from employers’ hiring, advancement, and training practices? In this research we explore the public’s perceptions on skills-based hiring, preferences for employer-provided education and training benefits, and beliefs about who should fund education and training.

This week’s findings come from the Strada Public Viewpoint Survey, Strada-Gallup Education Consumer Survey, and Strada-Gallup Employer Survey. The research is intended to provide insights to the education and training providers, policymakers, employers, and individual Americans who are navigating the COVID-19 crisis.

7 in 10 Americans (69%) agree employers should hire job candidates who have the required skills and work experience, even if they don’t have a college degree.

Less than half of Americans (48%) say employers in their field are willing to hire skilled workers without degrees.

2 in 5 Americans (42%) say they learn best when their employer is involved.

On average, Americans say financing education and training should be a shared responsibility.

- Employers: 30%
- State and federal governments: 35%
- Individuals and their families: 35%

*The Strada Public Viewpoint Survey was fielded by Heart+Mind Strategies regularly from March 2020 to January 2021. The 2020 Strada-Gallup Education Consumer Survey was fielded from April to May 2020 and October to December 2020 and is a nationally representative mail- and web-based survey of U.S. adults ages 18 to 65. The 2018 Strada-Gallup Employer Survey is a nationally representative web-based survey of U.S. adults involved in hiring decisions.