



REPORT TO THE WASHINGTON STATE APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING COUNCIL
October 21, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to bring you this update of apprenticeship news at the Federal level



The 7th annual National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) will take place November 15 - 21, 2021. NAW is a nationwide celebration where industry, labor, equity, workforce, education, and government leaders host events to showcase the successes and value of Registered Apprenticeship for re-building our economy, advancing racial and gender equity, and supporting underserved communities. NAW is an opportunity to highlight how Registered Apprenticeship, a proven and industry-driven training model, provides a critical talent pipeline that can help to address some of our nation's pressing workforce challenges such as responding to critical supply chain demands and supporting a clean energy workforce, modernizing our cybersecurity response, addressing public health issues, and rebuilding our country's infrastructure.

Find resources for planning and promoting events, and for issuing proclamations at:

<https://www.apprenticeship.gov/national-apprenticeship-week>

Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship

The Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship (ACA) held its inaugural meeting on October 6, 2021. Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh opened the meeting with remarks about the vision for the role of the ACA. Per its charter, the ACA will submit an interim report within six months regarding:

1. The expansion, modernization, and diversification of the National Apprenticeship model;
2. The expansion of apprenticeships into new industries and sectors including, but not limited to, cybersecurity, clean energy, advanced manufacturing, information technology, and healthcare; and
3. Equitable access for all workers to participate and succeed in the National Apprenticeship system.

Five subcommittees will begin work on challenge issues and prepare an initial draft report. The subcommittees are:

- Apprenticeship Modernization
- Increasing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility in Apprenticeship
- Industry Engagement in New and Emerging Sectors
- Apprenticeship Pathways: Pre-Apprenticeship, Youth Apprenticeship, and Degree Apprenticeships
- Ex-Officio Federal Workgroup

Joshua Johnson of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development represented the National Association of State and Territorial Apprenticeship Directors (NASTAD).

The next ACA meeting will be held in January 2022, and is open to the public. Please see <https://www.apprenticeship.gov/advisory-committee-apprenticeship/meetings> for materials presented at the meeting.

Investments

A Request for Proposals (RFP) to award up to four new contracts to Industry Intermediaries to launch, promote, and expand Registered Apprenticeship models in non-traditional industries and occupations closed on October 18. The Office of Apprenticeship (OA) within the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) proposes to award up to four new contracts to Industry Intermediaries to launch, promote, and expand multi-employer Registered Apprenticeship models in non-traditional industries and occupations that shall: 1) scale Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) expansion opportunities in critical industries; 2) increase the percentage of Registered Apprenticeship opportunities for under-represented populations, specifically women and people of color; and 3) leverage existing Registered Apprenticeship stakeholder resources and promising practices to support the long-term sustainability of programs developed through this initiative after project completion.

Target industries include those adversely impacted by COVID-19, and include, but are not limited to: Care Economy; Electric Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution; Key supply chain industry sectors; and Transportation and Logistics Operations.

Information on current grants and contracts can be found at:

<https://www.apprenticeship.gov/investments-tax-credits-and-tuition-support/active-grants-and-contracts>

The U.S. Department of Labor is not the only federal agency providing Registered Apprenticeship and non-registered grants and contract opportunities. Please visit [grants.gov](https://www.dhs.gov/grants.gov) and/or [sam.gov](https://www.sam.gov) to view all federally funded opportunities, and all amendments and frequently asked questions pertaining to a specific opportunity.

Congressional Update

Julie Su was appointed by President Biden to serve as the Deputy Secretary of Labor and confirmed by the Senate on July 13, 2021. The Deputy Secretary serves as the de-facto chief

operating officer for the Department, overseeing its workforce, managing its budget and executing the priorities of the Secretary of Labor.

Prior to joining the U.S. Department of Labor, Deputy Secretary Su served as the secretary for the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency. The LWDA enforces workplace laws, combats wage theft, ensures health and safety on the job, connects Californians to quality jobs and career pathways, and administers unemployment insurance, workers compensation and paid family leave.

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/osec/depsec>

Regulatory Agenda

OMB recently published the Spring 2021 Regulatory Agenda which can be found at <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaMain>

The only OA related regulatory agenda item is an update that “The Department is considering amending its apprenticeship regulations to rescind subpart B of title 29 CFR part 29, Labor Standards for the Registration of Apprenticeship Programs, including the status of those Standards Recognition Entities and Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs that previously received recognition under the provisions of 29 CFR part 29, subpart B, and to make additional conforming edits in subpart A as appropriate.” The Department is considering these actions in response to the Biden Administration Executive Order signed on February 17, 2021 which revoked Executive Order 13801 and directed federal departments and agencies to consider taking steps promptly to rescind any orders, rules, regulations, guidelines or policies implementing Executive Order 13801, including IRAPs.

As mentioned in the update, the Department is only considering this amendment at this time. If the Department decides to move forward with a rescission of subpart B, we will issue a public notice via the Federal Register. In the meantime, the suspension of new Standards Recognition Entities is still in place. We will continue to keep you updated as these considerations move forward.

The National Apprenticeship Act of 2021 passed the House on February 5 and is still sitting with the Senate and we have not heard anything else on it as of today.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Garcia
Regional Director