

U.S. Department of Labor

Employment and Training Administration
Office of Apprenticeship
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San Francisco, CA 94103



REPORT TO THE WASHINGTON STATE APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING COUNCIL 2ND QUARTER

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING YOU THIS UPDATE
OF APPRENTICESHIP NEWS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

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APPRENTICESHIP.GOV

OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Apprenticeship Building America Grant Program - FOA-ETA-22-06

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) supports a coordinated, national investment strategy that aims to strengthen and modernize the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) system centered on equity and promotes Registered Apprenticeship as a workforce development solution. Applicants can apply for funding across four grant categories: (1) State Apprenticeship System Building and Modernization; (2) Expansion of RAP Opportunities for Youth; (3) Ensuring Equitable RAP Pathways Through Pre-Apprenticeship Leading to RAP Enrollment and Equity Partnerships; and (4) Registered Apprenticeship Hubs. The grant **closing date is April 25, 2022**. More information can be found in the following links:

[Full Announcement \(PDF format\)](#)

[Amendment One \(PDF format\)](#)

[Prospective Applicant Webinar Recording](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) Updated](#)

Workforce Pathways for Youth - FOA-ETA-22-07

The Workforce Pathways for Youth demonstration grants support national out-of-school time (OST) organizations that serve historically underserved and marginalized youth ages 14 to 21. These grants will place an emphasis on age-appropriate workforce readiness programming to expand job training and workforce pathways for youth, including soft skill development, career exploration, job readiness and certification, summer jobs, year-round job opportunities, and apprenticeships. Funding will also support partnerships between workforce boards and youth serving organizations. Grant **closing date is April 25, 2022**. More information can be found in the following links:

[Full Announcement \(PDF format\)](#)

[Prospective Applicant Webinar](#)

[Amendment One \(PDF format\)](#)

Other DOL workforce-related grant opportunities presented by the Employment and Training Administration are conveniently [located here](#) including:

Pathway Home 3 - FOA-ETA-22-04

Due April 19, 2022

Growth Opportunities - FOA-ETA-22-03

Due April 21, 2022

Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grant - FOA-ETA-22-02

Due June 2, 2022

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM STANDARDS

Circular 2022-01 provided updated guidance regarding minimum **National Program Standards** (NPS) for Registered Apprenticeship Programs. This policy guidance supersedes and replaces the Office of Apprenticeship (OA) Circular 2018-01 and provides updated criteria that will be considered to determine whether an apprenticeship program registered by OA satisfies the minimum requirements for an NPS program. OA recognizes that there are different sponsorship models that may be successful as national apprenticeship programs. Therefore, sponsors may qualify for registering NPS using one of two categories outlined in the Circular. OA encourages registered apprenticeship stakeholders to familiarize themselves with [Circular 2022-01](#) as well as the [NPS checklist](#).

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON APPRENTICESHIP

The Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship (ACA) met on January 26, 2022, to consider draft reports from its five subcommittees. 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

The ACA [meeting minutes summary](#) is available for all to review and for more information on the ACA, its members, and its subcommittees, please see www.apprenticeship.gov/advisory-committee-apprenticeship.

90-DAY TRUCKING APPRENTICESHIP CHALLENGE

Over the past few months state apprenticeship agencies have made significant contributions to the **90-day Trucking Apprenticeship Challenge**. Your work has helped to drive apprenticeship program development and expansion across the trucking and transportation sector that, in partnership with industry associations, employers, labor groups, and other intermediaries, filled numerous job vacancies and created many new jobs. Look for the upcoming summary of accomplishments from this effort to be posted to www.apprenticeship.gov soon and let's keep the momentum going!

APPRENTICESHIP EVENTS

Virtual Institute for State Apprenticeship Expansion Grantees May 9th – 13th 2022

American Institutes for Research is hosting a **Virtual Institute** for State Apprenticeship Expansion Grantees. The event will include plenary sessions with federal and state leaders, workshops highlighting state strategies for Registered Apprenticeship expansion, roundtables for peer-to-peer dialogue, and more.

For more information, a sneak peek at the draft agenda, and to register for the event, visit the [Virtual Institute website](#).

8th Annual National Apprenticeship Week November 14-20, 2022

The Office of Apprenticeship would like to thank the entire Region 6 apprenticeship community for joining us in celebrating **National Apprenticeship Week 2021**. A record 952 events and 237 proclamations were posted on the National Apprenticeship Week website. Our NAW 2021 activities report can be found [HERE](#).

It's never too early to start planning! To register your NAW 2022 event early click on [REGISTER](#).

For more information go to: www.apprenticeship.gov/national-apprenticeship-week

APPRENTICESHIP OCCUPATION REQUESTS

The **Apprenticeship Occupation Request Tool** is a modernized and more efficient approach for users to remotely complete each of the digital forms needed for processing apprenticeability requests within an online portal. The system will also provide quality control functions to ensure all required information is submitted and to address specific accuracy on proposed Work Process Schedules and Related Instruction Outlines. Prospective industry respondents can provide comments within the portal and submit entries electronically to OA staff. OA will now be able to review and approve requests electronically, which will assist in ensuring high quality submissions and can reduce the overall response time for stakeholders.

The New Apprenticeship Occupation Request Tool is accessible from the www.apprenticeship.gov website on the *Resources Tab*, but can more easily be found [HERE](#).

APPRENTICESHIP AMBASSADOR INITIATIVE

The **Apprenticeship Ambassador Initiative** seeks to create a national network of employers, labor organizations, industry associations, program sponsors, educators, workforce intermediaries, minority serving organizations, apprentices, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders to serve as champions for expanding and diversifying Registered Apprenticeship. Organizations that have a minimum of one year of experience with Registered Apprenticeship are eligible to become an Apprenticeship Ambassador. For more information on the Apprenticeship Ambassador Initiative go to: www.apprenticeship.gov/apprenticeship-ambassador-initiative or skip ahead to apply to become an ambassador organization at www.apprenticeship.gov/application-apprenticeship-ambassador.

RAPIDS USERS' UPDATES

Recruiting a wider pool of qualified candidates just got a little easier with the “**Recruit Talent**” tool in RAPIDS. RAPIDS users can advertise and promote apprenticeship job opportunities onto the www.apprenticeship.gov website in just a few easy steps. Check out the *Recruit Talent* option in RAPIDS today!

RAPIDS can now more easily assist State Apprenticeship Agencies in developing new program standards using the “**Standards Builder**” tool. The tool was released in October 2021 but has recently been updated to include OA’s latest boilerplate standards, a standards revision process, and a DocuSign add-in for e-signatures.

If your organization isn’t currently using RAPIDS for apprenticeship database management, let’s talk!

EDUCATOR’S CORNER

With an investment from the U.S. Department of Labor, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) has developed a **Virtual Apprenticeship Network (VAN) Toolkit**, to create and expand registered apprenticeships at community colleges with support from industry partners. AACC has collected best practices from over [60 community colleges](#) that have been involved in the [Expanding Community College Apprenticeship](#) (ECCA) Initiative. Credit for the research and the VAN Toolkit goes to the AACC Advisory Board of Community College Apprenticeships.

[ENTER THE NETWORK HERE](#)

INDUSTRY INTERMEDIARIES

DOL has awarded four (4) national industry intermediaries approximately \$8 million in contract investments to expand Registered Apprenticeship. This investment will target the following sectors:

- Care economy that serves individuals, families, elderly and persons with disabilities to provide community food and housing, vocational rehabilitation services and childcare services.
- Electric power generation, transmission and distribution.
- Key supply chains including semi-conductors, advanced batteries, critical minerals and strategic materials, pharmaceuticals and active ingredients and transportation equipment manufacturing.
- Transportation and logistics operations for supply chain distribution including air, rail, water and support activities.

Industry Intermediaries help accelerate apprenticeship program development and create new sector-based apprenticeship partnerships at regional and national levels. The contract commits each intermediary to enroll an annual average of at least 750 Registered Apprentices, using strategies that engage supply chain employers, leverage key partnerships, reduce program development time for key occupations in target industries and increase the number of new apprentices. [LEARN MORE](#)

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

The National Apprenticeship Act of 2021 (H.R.447) passed the House on February 5th, 2021. On February 25, 2021, the bill was received in the Senate, read twice, and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. To date, there is no new movement.

For more details about H.R. 447, stakeholders can review the [full text](#) or the bill's [summary](#).

REGULATORY AGENDA

The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) published the Standards Recognition Entities (SREs) of Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (IRAPs) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on November 15, 2021. The NPRM proposes to rescind the U.S. Department of Labor's (Department) regulation regarding SREs of IRAPs under 29 CFR part 29, subpart B and makes necessary conforming changes to the Department's Registered Apprenticeship regulations currently under 29 CFR part 29, subpart A. The Department received comments through January 14, 2022 via www.regulations.gov.

Read more about the [Proposed rule here](#).