

### **Attachment 1: Abstract**

The Arkansas Apprenticeship Pathway Initiative (AAPI) will create new or expand existing Registered Apprenticeships statewide in the targeted H-1B job growth industries of Information Technology, Advanced Manufacturing, and Health Care to enable unemployed, underemployed, dislocated workers, and underrepresented populations to learn a skill, earn good wages while gaining college credit. AAPI seeks \$4,000,000 to train 600 apprentices over the life of the grant. With very little or no cost to the apprentices, AAPI has 20 employers committed to hire and train 525 Apprentices with AAPI partners contributing over \$9 million in leveraged resources. The Arkansas Department of Workforce Services (ADWS) located in Little Rock, AR will serve as lead on the grant utilizing its successful Discretionary Grants Team. AAPI primary partners who are: ADWS, Arkansas Apprenticeship Coalition (AAC), Arkansas Community Colleges (ACC), and Winrock International have previously collaborated on DOL grants to achieve and oftentimes exceed goals. Other partners include 20 employers such as CVS Healthcare, Baxter Healthcare, and 4 Employer Organizations—the Arkansas State Chamber, the Arkansas Aerospace Alliance, the Arkansas STEM Coalition, and the Workforce Training Consortium with 1,235 members combined. This robust infrastructure will ensure success for the already committed programs while establishing a sustainable scalable partnership that will lead to identifying additional employer driven Apprenticeship opportunities. AAPI is also a catalyst to develop a strong network of 10 targeted populations' service providers that will refer minorities, women, Veterans, recipients of SNAP/TANF, persons with disabilities, and persons transitioning from incarceration. The Arkansas Department of Human Services, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Goodwill and others are all partners on the grant. Winrock International will assist targeted participants to overcome barriers by offering wrap around case management and supportive services. AAC, and its member partners, National Apprenticeship

Training Foundation (NATF), Arkansas Painters Apprenticeship Local 424, International Brotherhood Electrical Workers Local 295, Northwest Arkansas Plumbing, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 155, Sheet Metal Workers Local 36 have joined with 3 employers to train and hire 165 Apprentices in IT and Advanced Manufacturing Processes. ACC leads the consortium of 22 community colleges. 4 colleges have consulted with employers to design programs for 360 apprentices. AAPI will call upon its network to recruit more employers, training partners, and participants to meet the goal of training 600 apprentices.

AAPI innovative Program Activities include: 1) Creating and expanding Registered Apprenticeships in H-1B heavy IT, Advanced Manufacturing Processes ranging from Robotics to Welding, and Healthcare; 2) Increasing participant ROI by aligning apprenticeship with college credit shortening the time/cost to obtain a college degree and higher wages; 3) Strengthening employer partnerships to integrate a sustainable scalable model for developing employer driven Apprenticeships; 4) Forging a strong network of diverse service providers to underserved populations that will be utilized to refer participants to AAPI and other workforce services; 5) Leveraging existing trainings, employer consortiums, and accelerated training to increase Employer ROI by achieving a skilled workforce quicker at lower cost.

AAPI will create and embed a sustainable Apprenticeship infrastructure of business, training providers, service organizations and state agencies to increase the number of Apprentices in high-demand occupations and increase the income and quality of life of Arkansans.

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