

**AMERICAN APPRENTICESHIP INITIATIVE OF WESTERN NEW YORK**

**ABSTRACT**

**Lead Applicant Name:** United Way of Buffalo & Erie County

**Lead Applicant City/State:** Buffalo, New York

**Primary Partnership Entities:** (a) Private- United Way of Buffalo & Erie County (business-related nonprofit); and (b) Public- Buffalo and Erie County Workforce Development Board

**Additional Key Partners:** Ford Motor Company Buffalo Stamping Plant, PCB Piezotronics, SolarCity, Buffalo Public Schools Adult Education, Buffalo & Erie County Workforce Development Consortium, Buffalo Niagara Partnership, Buffalo Urban League, Erie Community College, New York State Department of Labor, Supportive Service Providers, UAW 897, and Workforce Development Institute

**Areas Served by Grant:** Cities of Buffalo and Depew, County of Erie, and New York State

**Total Funding Level Requested:** \$2,975,884

**Project Name:** American Apprenticeship Initiative of Western New York (AAI of WNY)

**Number of Individuals to be Served:** A minimum of 300

**Populations to be Served:** Incumbent workers and new apprentices, targeting 55% from underrepresented populations such as veterans, young people, people of color, low-skilled individuals and persons with disabilities.

**Targeted H-1 B Industry/Occupations:** Advanced Manufacturing/CNC Machinists and Semi-Conductor Technicians

**Summary of Program Activities:** AAI of WNY will both leverage and support Buffalo's renaissance in Advanced Manufacturing by creating new and enhancing existing Registered

Apprenticeship (RA) programs at three of our community's premier manufacturers. A total of 300 RAs will be created over five years.

The goals and intended outcomes of AAI of WNY are to **expand and create RA programs in Advanced Manufacturing** by increasing awareness and articulating return on investment for employers; **strengthen career pathways through alignment of RA programs, post-secondary educational options, and pre-apprenticeship training** by working with educational providers and ultimately increasing educational attainment and program completion among participants; **increase opportunities for job seekers and incumbent workers from underrepresented populations** through outreach and the provision of supportive services to targeted populations; and **explore public policy options that increase demand for RA programs and support long-term sustainability** by calculating return on investment for the public workforce system and measuring and articulating increased benefits of RA participation for employees.

Innovations to support apprenticeships include an evidence based supportive services model and the use of SMS for data collection. RA participants will have access at their workplaces to a wide range of services from community partners to address non-skill barriers to success. SMS will be used not only to collect contact information and short-term data from program participants, but to measure longitudinal outcomes and monitor and respond to ongoing supportive service needs.

Enhancing and developing RA programs through AAI of WNY will be a key competitive advantage for our region over the next decade. We look forward to partnering with U.S. Department of Labor to re-imagine the way that American Apprenticeship programs can solve our skilled workforce challenges.