

ApprenticeshipUSA Announcement Questions and Answers

ApprenticeshipUSA State Expansion Grant Program Overview

Q. What is the ApprenticeshipUSA State Expansion Grant Initiative?

- A. The **ApprenticeshipUSA State Expansion Grant Initiative** is the second phase of the Department’s strategy to invest in State-led initiatives to grow and diversify Registered Apprenticeship. Following on the ApprenticeshipUSA State Accelerator grants, the ApprenticeshipUSA Expansion Grants focus on the use of intermediaries to conduct outreach and other activities that engage employers, expand and diversify Registered Apprenticeship within new sectors and under-served populations, and promote innovative strategies and incentives for this critical earn and learn training model.

The Department’s goals for ApprenticeshipUSA State Expansion Grants funding are three fold:

- 1) Help States advance Registered Apprenticeship as a workforce development strategy and post-secondary education career pathway that maintains and exoands the nation’s strong, adaptable, and highly skilled workforce.
- 2) Support integrated, statewide apprenticeship strategies and State capacity to engage industry and meet demand for new programs in both traditional and non-traditional industries such as Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Healthcare, Advanced Manufacturing, Building Trades, Cybersecurity, and Business Services.
- 3) Catalyze State innovations to significantly increase Registered Apprenticeship opportunities for all American workers, particularly underrepresented populations in apprenticeship including opportunity youth, women, communities of color, Native Americans, and persons with disabilities, and taking steps to facilitate their successful completion of apprenticeship programs.

Q. How many ApprenticeshipUSA State Expansion grants are being awarded?

- A. The Department is competitively awarding up to 37 grants, totaling \$50.5 million. Should Congress appropriate additional funds for this purpose in FY 2017 and 2018, we may consider up to two additional rounds of continuation awards under this solicitation.

Q. How is this grant program funded?

- A. This program is authorized under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, Pub. L. 114-113., Div. H, Title I; the National Apprenticeship Act, 29 U.S.C. § 50; and 29 C.F.R. Part 29.

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Q. Who was eligible to apply?

A. States were eligible applicants (e.g., SAA, Economic Development Agency, or State Workforce Agency, State Technical College System, etc.). This entity will have the sole responsibility for administering the project and will serve as the ApprenticeshipUSA State Expansion Grants' fiscal agent.

Q. How do states qualify for continuation awards under this solicitation?

A. Continuation funding to grantees is subject to the discretion of the Department and contingent upon the availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the grantee's project, and adequate stewardship of federal funds.

Q. What are the funding ranges for the ApprenticeshipUSA State Expansion grant projects?

Grant funding per award ranges from up to \$700,000 - \$2,700,000.

Q. What types of activities will the ApprenticeshipUSA State Expansion grants fund?

The ApprenticeshipUSA State Expansion Grants are the second phase of a larger strategy to scale up state strategies to grow Registered Apprenticeship.

Grantees can utilize this funding for the following activities:

- State system alignment, capacity, and subject matter expertise to embed apprenticeship as a key training vehicle for employers within the State.

- Provide a range of training services that support individuals enrolled in a Registered Apprenticeship program, including: classroom occupational training; development of curricula and standards for apprenticeship; online and technology-based learning; accelerated and competency-based training that integrates academic and occupational skills training; and apprenticeship training costs and other supportive services.

- Outreach and communication to support strategies for engaging employers, parents, educators, underrepresented populations, other critical stakeholders, and State residents; explain the benefits of apprenticeship; and generate further support across the State.

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- Partner, industry intermediary, and employer engagement such as convening State and Regional industry round table events; peer-to-peer exchanges; State apprenticeship institutes; Secondary and Post-Secondary partnerships; and ApprenticeshipUSA training and consultation.
- Program administration to improve program efficiency, program quality and outcome measurement such as project management, data collection and grant reporting, grant monitoring and evaluation.
- Registered Apprenticeship incentives such as state apprenticeship training funds, state-level incentives/credits for Registered Apprenticeships, apprenticeship training costs and other supportive services; and other types of seed funding to industry intermediaries and employers.
- Pathways to Registered Apprenticeship opportunities such as, career awareness models for underrepresented populations, career pathway development activities, and quality pre-apprenticeships and career pathway programs as defined in Training and Employment Notice 13-12 at:
http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?docn=5842.
- Modernizing IT systems and data collection –States may use a portion of these funds to enhance data collection capabilities and reporting of individual records (i.e., registered apprentices and program sponsors) to the Office of Apprenticeship.

Q. How long is the grant period?

- A.** The period of performance is 18 months with an anticipated start date of November 1, 2016. This performance period includes all necessary implementation and start-up activities.

Continuation funding may become available for up to two additional 18 month periods of performance should Congress appropriate additional funds for this purpose in FY 2017 and 2018. As such, all grantees were required to provide a comprehensive project plan to cover 3.5 years of grant activity; However, only the first 18 months of the project will be funded with Fiscal Year 2016 funds.

Additional Resources

- For more information on ApprenticeshipUSA investments, please see:
<https://www.doleta.gov/oa/grants.cfm>
- White House Fact Sheet:
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/04/21/fact-sheet-investing-90-million-through-apprenticeshipusa-expand-proven>