



Apprenticeship Connections

A Resource for State Apprenticeship Expansion Grantees

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News from the Office of Apprenticeship

[New Apprenticeship Funding Announced](#) - The Office of Apprenticeship (OA) is excited to announce the May 3rd release of the new Training and Employment Guidance Letter ([TEGL 17-18](#)) on the Availability of Program Year 18 Funding for State Apprenticeship Expansion. Applications are now being accepted [here](#), with the application period closing on June 3, 2019.

Although these funds are being announced through a TEGL with an allotment format, it is important to note these are also discretionary funds, so OA and the Office of Grants Management (OGM) will be operating these investments as discretionary grants. There is a total of \$73m available for each of the 57 States and Territories through an allotment format (see Attachment I of the TEGL for the specific amounts).



These new funds can be used to support the following types of State strategies to expand the use of Apprenticeship:

- Align resources, further integrating apprenticeship into the workforce system.
- Innovate and expand this proven workforce strategy into new industries such as Advanced Manufacturing, Cybersecurity, and Business Services.
- Advance apprenticeship as a workforce development strategy and postsecondary education career pathway that maintains our nation's strong, adaptable, and highly skilled workforce.
- Support integrated, statewide apprenticeship strategies and increase State capacity to engage industry and meet the demand for new programs in both traditional and non-traditional industries.
- Catalyze State innovations to significantly increase apprenticeship opportunities for all American workers, including underrepresented populations.

Any questions regarding the application process or related to the new funding TEGL must be provided in writing rather than by telephone to OGM to maintain process integrity. Please reference ETA-TEGL-17-18 in the subject line and send questions to the Grants Management Specialist, Elizabeth DeHart, at Dehart.Elizabeth@dol.gov.

TA Happenings - Our State grantee TA Coaches will be wrapping up this segment of

work with SAE grantees as our current technical assistance contract closes in mid-May. Please continue to work closely with them as they prepare final reports and coordinate any ongoing grantee assistance with us here in the National Office and with ETA's FPOs. OA is working to ensure continued TA support. During the anticipated brief lapse in grant-specific TA coaching, your FPOs will, as always, continue to work with you and be available to answer any questions regarding your grant. FPOs will also continue to work closely with OA to coordinate and help address any TA needs. Please be sure to share with the appropriate staff within your organization. Should you have any questions regarding this interim time-period please send them to Apprenticeship.Grants-ETA@DOL.gov.

Resources

[New Industry-Specific CoP Page on Agriculture](#)

- Are you looking for ways to expand apprenticeship into the agriculture and food systems industry? The industry is in the midst of a severe labor shortage, which presents a great opportunity to explore the benefits apprenticeship can bring for companies looking for good talent. A new

[Apprenticeship in Agriculture](#)

[and Food Systems page](#)

on our CoP provides an orientation to the key components of the industry - Agriculture Production; Food Processing; Distribution, Logistics, and Transportation; and Retail Food Distribution - as well as resources and examples of apprenticeships in the industry that you can build on.



[New Clearinghouse for all Apprenticeship EEO-Related Webinars](#)

- If your sponsors missed the May 1st webinar on [Best Practices for Encouraging Disability Self-Identification](#) or any of the webinars on the new apprenticeship EEO regulations provided by DOL over this past year, DOL's [new clearinghouse](#) brings them all together in one easy-to-access site. And don't forget: DOL's [Hiring and Retaining Apprentices with Disabilities page](#) is another great resource for information on EEO regulations, myths, and recruiting, hiring, and retaining people with disabilities.



[New Apprenticeship Video from the State of Washington](#) - Check out this short new [video](#) highlighting the benefits of apprenticeship for students and parents who might be weighing options.

Spotlight on Wisconsin: Rooted in Tradition While Branching in New Directions

Wisconsin has built on its strong apprenticeship tradition while branching in new directions to expand apprenticeship opportunities and continue to meet employers' talent needs. For instance, after a brief hiatus, the state Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards (BAS) hosted its biennial apprenticeship conference in March, marking a continuation of nearly 60 years of tradition. The conference's return was met with enthusiasm, with more than 400 attendees from education, private industry, organized labor, trade groups and government drawn to the technical assistance workshops, educational seminars, awards banquet, and many opportunities to network and



socialize.

Wisconsin's longstanding construction apprenticeship programs experienced substantial growth in 2018, notably in the southeastern area of the state. And 2019 looks to be no different, with nearly 80% of construction firms nationwide reporting plans to hire more workers yet having difficulty finding qualified employees, according to a recent industry survey by the Associated

General Contractors of America and Sage Construction and Real Estate. To grow the pool of qualified candidates, BAS has used SAE grant funds in partnership with two workforce development boards and a number of community organizations to provide support services to apprentices, perform outreach and recruitment, and make inroads with populations traditionally underrepresented in the construction trades.

As it upholds its time-honored past, BAS is also expanding its traditional trade offerings. This spring, BAS will finalize the curriculum for a new biotechnology apprenticeship in the profession of laboratory assistant. With funding from the SAE grant and with support from the state's robust biotechnology business sector, BAS tailored an apprenticeship curriculum to meet the unique needs of the biotech industry. BAS completed the related educational curriculum for the laboratory assistant apprenticeship last fall and is convening stakeholders in May to establish the on-the-job learning component. Already, biotech employers are waiting in the wings to sign on registered apprentices for the new program.

See the state's [apprenticeship website](#) to learn more about apprenticeship in Wisconsin.

Spotlight on Idaho's LEADER Initiative: Learn. Do. Earn.

What do I want to be when I grow up? What am I going to do after college? What's my five-year plan? Is there room for promotion at my job? Right now people of all ages are grappling with these questions. Meanwhile employers are finding it impossible to find qualified individuals with the right skills. And educators are struggling to connect their students with real-world experiences. With students busy studying, educators busy managing their classrooms, and employers busy building their businesses - how will they find time to create meaningful collaborations?

Here's where several Idaho agencies partnered to create the Idaho LEADER Initiative. The LEADER Initiative targets employers and educators, aiming to increase the engagement between them around work-based learning. Together Idaho Workforce Development Council, Idaho STEM Action Center, Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, Idaho State Board of Education, Idaho Department of Labor, Idaho Department of Education, Idaho Career & Technical Education, Idaho Commerce, and Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation are working to facilitate engagement, in part, by getting the word out about what work-based learning opportunities can look like along a [learn-do-earn spectrum](#).



The opportunities start with *Learning about Work*, experiences that can happen as early as elementary school like career education, employer engagement, and externships for teachers. This is where students start exploring possibilities and

learning about training. *Learning through Work* deepens this experience. This is where students can engage in internships, pre-apprenticeships, or co-ops. This phase combines in-classroom and real on-the-job experiences. Then there is *Learning at Work* where individuals are fully employed yet are engaged in training to help elevate their skills and or positions such as on-the job training or apprenticeships.

Interested employers and educators can [learn more](#) and take the LEADER pledge on Idaho's [LEADER website](#). Check it out for more details!

Apprenticeship in the News

[*Nation's First Apprenticeship for Public School Teachers Debuts with Norristown School District*](#)

[*How One Company Built a White-Collar Apprenticeship Program*](#)

[*Community Colleges to Add New Apprenticeships to Work Force*](#)

[*Pennsylvania Approves its First Formal Farming Apprenticeship*](#)

[*DFW Airport Launches First Ever Airport Apprenticeship in Texas*](#)

[*More Employers Turning to Apprenticeships to Build Talent Pipeline*](#)

[*Established Options for Education from Kindergarten through Apprenticeships Abound*](#)



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