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SAVE THE DATES!

April 21
AAI/SAE/ASE Webinar on Adjusting to Change

April 22
Industry Focus Call on Energy/Utilities

April 22
Resolving Audit Findings Webinar

May 14
ASE Webinar: Promising Practices in Tracking Registered Apprentices

May 27
Industry Focus Call on Agriculture

June 4
Expanding Diversity in Apprenticeship Webinar

GRANTS MANAGEMENT CORNER

New State Funding Opportunity
On April 15, 2020, the Department announced the availability of $73 million in grants to States through tiered funding. The goal of these funds is to expand the national Registered Apprenticeship system by funding baseline activities that improve States' ability to serve, improve, and strategically scale the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) model described in 29 C.F.R. parts 29, Subpart A, and 29 C.F.R. 30; and to fund innovations aimed at using RAPs as a tool for developing the economy and building infrastructure.

The tiered approach provides States maximum flexibility to address local apprenticeship needs while meeting the Department's RAP priorities. For more information about this funding opportunity, please point your browser to https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=7875, or go to www.grants.gov to apply.

Applications are due by 11:59:59pm EST May 21, 2020.

Please direct all questions regarding this funding opportunity to Anu Mathew, Grants Management Specialist, Office of Grants Management (OGM), at Mathew.Anu@dol.gov, specifically referencing "ETA-TEGL-15-19." Applicants should include a contact name, phone number, and email with all questions to provide a means of response. Only OGM National Staff are authorized to answer applicant questions in regard to an open funding opportunity.

Addressing Your Questions in These Challenging Times

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation continues to evolve, many of you are seeking guidance about continuation of services, performance, and other concerns. ETA recently released a series of grants related technical assistance resources and frequently asked questions (FAQs) on WorkforceGPS to address grants management questions related to COVID-19 to help grantees, state and local workforce leaders, and other stakeholders to assist the public workforce system during this crisis. Of specific interest to grantees will be the ETA Coronavirus (COVID-19) FAQs.

We also released Bulletin 2020-51, providing flexibility regarding the requirements for approval for related instruction; this document supplements Bulletin 2010-13. Other resources that may be helpful include:

- A new coronavirus.gov website consolidating a wealth of information on topics such as symptoms, up-to-date case counts, and information specifically for schools, small business owners, other businesses, and more
- A new DOL Coronavirus Resource page compiling resources to help workers and employers, including a new letter on unemployment compensation for individuals affected by the coronavirus
- A National Conference of State Legislatures overview of changes to state occupational licensing during COVID-19

We encourage you to review the information provided. Reach out to your federal
project officer (FPO) if you have any questions or concerns. We understand you may be adjusting services to be online only, or suspending some or all services; if so, please let your FPO know as soon as possible, and keep your communication lines open to us. Where necessary, please defer to your organization’s and local communities' policies and the situation on the ground.

Above all else, we ask that you prioritize the health and well-being of you, your family, your staff, and the individuals you serve. Safeguarding your health and safety is our number one concern at the moment.

## Defining Your Grant

**PPII:** Protected Personally Identifiable Information (Protected PII) refers to an individual's first name or first initial and last name in combination with any one or more types of information, including, but not limited to, social security number, passport number, credit card numbers, clearances, bank numbers, biometrics, date and place of birth, mother's maiden name, criminal, medical and financial records, and/or educational transcripts. This does not include PII that is required by law to be disclosed. Grantees are responsible for protecting any PII/PPII collected as a result of grant activity. See also:

- 2 CFR § 200.79 Personally Identifiable Information (PII)
- SAE Grant Agreement Term 12.i; ASE Grant Agreement Term 12.h
- ASE Reporting Resources Interim Handbook

## ASE Promising Practices in Tracking Registered Apprenticeship Participants Webinar

Tracking ASE participants is essential for accurate reporting, but we know it has been challenging for many grantees. Join us on May 14 from 3-4 p.m. ET for a webinar to learn how some of your peers are overcoming hurdles to create systems and procedures that work. Watch your email for registration details coming soon!

## Webinar on Resolving Audit Findings

It's not too late to join ETA Audit Resolution Specialist Kevin Brumback on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. ET for a session about resolving audit findings effectively and efficiently. Registration is still open!

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

### Webinar on Adjusting to Change

The joint American Apprenticeship Initiative (AAI) and SAE/ASE webinar on April 21 at 3 p.m. ET has been refocused to address strategies you can use to support apprenticeship sponsors and apprentices in these challenging times. Register today
using passcode 445445 to join your peers for this timely conversation. (Please note that if you already registered for the webinar about working with your governor that was previously scheduled for this time, you must re-register using the link and passcode above.)

Three More Industry Calls and a New Transportation/Logistics Webcast

We've had great participation in our industry focus calls, and we look forward to the three that remain:

- Energy/Utilities on Wednesday, April 22
- Agriculture on Wednesday, May 27
- Financial Services on Wednesday, June 24

(Please note the change in order for the final two webinars.) You can still register, if you haven't already. You can also find online all the recordings, transcripts, and summaries (as they are developed) for past webinars on healthcare, information technology, advanced manufacturing, and hospitality, and-soon!-a webcast on transportation and logistics to replace the webinar we regretfully had to cancel in March.

Increasing Diversity of Apprenticeship Participants Webinar

Throughout the winter and spring, peers from several ASE and SAE states formed an innovation cohort to explore promising practices and develop strategies to increase diversity of registered apprentices. Join the conversation as they share lessons learned in a capstone webinar, Collaborative Solutions for Increasing Diversity of Apprenticeship Participants, on June 4. Registration is coming soon!

Lessons Learned by the AAI Grantees

AAI grantees were the first to receive DOL competitive apprenticeship grant funds in 2015. A recent webinar, Lessons Learned from the American Apprenticeship Initiative (AAI) - What Grantees Wish They Had Known, featured a discussion on lessons learned. If you were unable to join the conversation, check out the recording to see how you can leverage their experience and get to the next level!

AROUND THE LARGER WORKFORCE WORLD

DOL's New Apprenticeship Pilot for Transitioning Service Members- a Promising Talent Pipeline for Apprenticeship Programs
DOL is pleased to announce the launch of a new apprenticeship pilot for transitioning service members (TSMs), hosted through the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS). Through this initiative, VETS has embedded 16 apprenticeship placement counselors (APCs) at eight military installations across the United States to work with TSMs interested in exploring apprenticeship as a post-separation career pathway. The APCs are providing counseling and apprenticeship preparation services to a talented pipeline of potential apprentices, which makes their primary audience a natural fit for the programs that you are starting and expanding.

How can you get involved in the apprenticeship pilot?
We can connect you with the APCs so that they can learn more about the apprenticeship programs that you are creating, launching, and expanding as an Office of Apprenticeship grantee. APCs will also be engaging with employers who may be interested in program development and may make referrals to you. In addition, you may already have employers who would like to hire veterans, and this pilot could help connect them with TSMs prior to their separation from service.

For additional information on the pilot or to connect with an APC, email us at apprenticeship.grants@dol.gov indicating VETS PILOT or VETS APC and your grant number in the subject line, and we'll get you in touch with the appropriate DOL staff.

You can also find lots of information on expanding apprenticeships for veterans on the Expanding Apprenticeship for Veterans page in the Workforce GPS apprenticeship community.

Recognizing Companies that Hire Veterans

Do you have employers who value, hire, and retain veterans? We want to recognize those employers through the Honoring Investments in Recruiting and Employing American Military Veterans (HIRE Vets) Medallion Award Program!

The award is not only meaningful to employers but also to transitioning service members and veterans in search of employment: Our interactive map at HIREVets.gov/Awardees identifies award recipients and provides veteran job seekers a direct link to their websites. Applications can be submitted through Thursday, April 30.

Availability of New Youth Apprenticeship Readiness Funding

On April 6, 2020, the Department announced the availability of $42.5 million in Youth Apprenticeship Readiness Funds.
Apprenticeship Readiness grants to support the enrollment of youth apprentices (16-24 years, in or out of school) into new or existing Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs). Eligible lead applicants for these grant public-private partnership grants are private nonprofit, for-profit, or public agencies and include education and training providers, workforce development system entities, organizations functioning as workforce intermediaries, and state agencies.

Through this grant program, partnerships will directly engage educational entities, including traditional, alternative, and non-traditional schools, as well as programs that serve out-of-school youth, school boards, workforce boards, employers, workforce partners, and other apprenticeship intermediaries to develop comprehensive approaches to establishing new apprenticeship models for youth or expanding existing apprenticeship programs for youth.

For more information, find FOA-ETA-20-06 at doleta.gov/grants or at www.grants.gov. Applications are due by May 6, 2020.

New Industry and Occupation Features on Apprenticeship.gov

You probably know that apprenticeship.gov offers businesses, job seekers, and educators customer-friendly information on apprenticeship. A recent update now allows job seekers to search for apprenticeship opportunities by industry or occupation, along with ZIP code, to make it easier to find the right fit.

Celebrating 100 Years of Helping Connect People with Disabilities with Work

Throughout 2020, the U.S. Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) is celebrating 100 years of helping people with disabilities access training, jobs, and greater independence since the Vocational Rehabilitation Act was signed in June 1920. A new VR 100 website is the go-to site for anniversary content such as a webcast on successful transition services with RSA Commissioner Mark Schultz.

REPORTING ROUNDUP

Next Reporting Due Date: May 15, 2020

ASE Reporting Updates

We will be posting new ASE Interim Reporting Instructions webcasts on the WorkforceGPS page soon. Be sure to join the community and sign up for notifications of new content postings to get them "hot off the press."

We will be rolling-out a newly revised interim reporting QPR with the webcasts, which will have additional quarter tabs and clearer edit checks. Please be sure that you are collecting and tracking all data currently indicated in the interim QPR in your participant data tracking systems. Note: If you have a red or yellow indicator in the edit check columns, there is a data inconsistency which needs to be resolved before
submitting the QPR. Questions? Ask your FPO.

At the time of newsletter production, there are no updates on the OMB review process of the reporting package, which also means no updates to the PIRL approval status. We will still, however, begin BETA testing in late June. Many thanks to those teams that have volunteered; we will be in touch with more details shortly. At this time, we still anticipate full WIPS roll-out to take place for all ASE QPRs later in the year. Stay tuned!

QUICK LINKS TO KEY APPRENTICESHIP WEBSITES

- Office of Grants Management Closeout Package and FAQs
- Online Courses on Grant Closeout and Audit Resolution
- Apprenticeship Inclusion Models (AIM) Resource Library
- ASE Grants Community
- SAE/General Apprenticeship Community
- Apprenticeship.gov
- ETA's Manage Your Awarded Grant

QUICK LINKS TO KEY CORONAVIRUS WEBSITES

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources at Workforce GPS
- ETA Coronavirus (COVID-19) FAQs
- DOL Coronavirus Resource Page
- Coronavirus.gov

"When adversity strikes, that's when you have to be the most calm. Take a step back, stay strong, stay grounded, and press on."

~ LL Cool J, Musician/Actor