



Apprenticeship Connections

A Resource for State Apprenticeship Expansion Grantees

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Apprenticeship Tools and Resources

[US DOL Releases New Policy on Apprenticeship and Staffing Agencies.](#) On July 7th, the US Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship released a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that now allows staffing and employee leasing agencies to submit applications for registration of apprenticeship programs. Read the new [SOoP](#) here.



[Apprenticeship and WIOA Performance.](#) Do you have questions about how Registered Apprenticeship programs can "count" in the performance measures for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs? These [tools and resources](#) on how apprenticeship can positively impact WIOA performance outcomes might help.

[Apprenticeship in Transportation.](#) From truck, train, and bus drivers, to electrical technicians and vehicle mechanics, apprenticeship programs are training thousands of workers in America's transportation, logistics, and distribution industry. Check out this new [resource page](#) on the ApprenticeshipUSA Community of Practice.



[Apprenticeship in Hospitality.](#) The hospitality industry is one of the fastest growing industries in the US - and hospitality employers are increasingly looking to apprenticeship to train their workforce. This [resource page](#) offers program examples and other tools that can be used to help expand apprenticeship in the hospitality sector.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Rapid Response and Business Engagement National Summit - August 30-September 1 in Boston, MA. Several workshops on apprenticeship will be offered at this event. For a complete schedule, additional details, and the registration link, please visit rapidresponsesummit.com.

Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) Grant Opportunity. The US Department of Labor, Women's Bureau has announced the availability of approximately \$1.294 million in for WANTO grants. This program is intended to provide technical assistance to employers and labor unions to encourage employment of women in apprenticeable occupations and nontraditional occupations. Proposals are due by August 23, 2017. For more information, read the [grant opportunity announcement](#).

Spotlight on Michigan and Ohio

Michigan Funds Apprenticeship Success Coordinators Statewide. As states work to expand apprenticeship, they commonly grapple with how to grow understanding and awareness; coordinate the many partners from workforce, education, apprenticeship, and others; and meet the increased need for help with developing apprenticeships. Michigan is trying to address these challenges through a new position supported with the State Apprenticeship Expansion Grant - the Apprenticeship Success Coordinator (ASC).



Each of the state's 16 workforce areas has one ASC, typically a Business Solutions staff member at a local Michigan Works! Center, but sometimes an administrator or, in a few areas, staff who share the responsibilities. ASCs function as facilitators, problem solvers, systems change agents, and relationship-builders in support of apprenticeship expansion. They help businesses, intermediaries, education and training providers, and other sponsors to effectively launch new Registered Apprenticeship programs. Through this role, the ASCs are increasing the apprenticeship staff capacity in the state.

Ms. Marcia Black-Watson, Division Administrator, Industry Engagement, notes that "ASCs are familiar with the assistance available from the workforce development system and can help Registered Apprenticeship program sponsors leverage applicable services and activities." That's the result in Michigan, where they're starting to see increases in the number of apprentices supported with WIOA services and activities. For more information, please contact Lauren Clay at ClayL3@michigan.gov or read Michigan's ASC policy [here](#).

Ohio Workforce and Transportation Agencies Partner to Create Pre-Apprenticeship Opportunities for Women and Minorities. From their unique vantage point, staff in Governor Kasich's Office of Workforce Transformation spied a win-win opportunity for the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (JFS) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). JFS administers workforce programs and is focusing on growing apprenticeships, particularly high-quality pre-apprenticeships. ODOT administers federal transportation grants which require contractors to employ certain percentages of women and minorities, but they often lack a pipeline to qualified workers who understand the trade. The Governor's Office brought the two departments together to create a pre-apprenticeship program that will meet their hiring goals and talent needs.

Ohio is kicking off the pre-apprenticeship program with a pilot in Cleveland, co-administered by Cuyahoga Community College and the State Building Trades. Pre-apprentices will get classroom training at the community college along with hands-on, practical experience in the State Building Trades craft training centers. ODOT contractors will employ the pre-apprentices, then transition them into Registered Apprenticeship programs with advanced standing upon successful



completion of the pre-apprenticeship.

The OhioMeansJobs Centers and nonprofit community-based partners will assist with recruitment, screening, and two critical needs - soft skills training and supportive services. State Apprenticeship Expansion grant funds are used to cover the costs of program administration, training, and all training-related expenses like tools, uniforms, and books.

For states interested in replicating this model, Executive Administrator of ApprenticeOhio Patrick Reardon recommends starting with an area (like Cleveland) with some of the largest transportation projects and therefore greatest need among employers. "Without the employers as partners, you have nothing. Apprentices have to be placed, so employers must have a need." For more information, contact Mr. Reardon at Patrick.reardon@jfs.ohio.gov or check out the [JFS apprenticeship website](#).

Apprenticeship in the News

[*Trump's Real Apprenticeships Offer a Lifeline: How the President's Executive Order can Expand Opportunities for Returned Citizens*](#)

[*Are Apprenticeships the Answer?*](#)

[*Out of Prison, Into a Job: Apprenticeship Program at Iowa Department of Corrections has Graduated 70*](#)

[*Ahead of Retirement Wave, Some States Fill Jobs with Apprenticeships*](#)

[*How State Apprenticeships Could Ease Staffing Woes*](#)



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