#### U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration Office of Apprenticeship

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## **Q-1 2025 REPORT TO:**



# STATE & TERRITORY APPRENTICESHIP AGENCIES AND COUNCILS

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING YOU THIS UPDATE FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

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Office of Apprenticeship

United States Department of Labor

#### APPRENTICESHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS



#### **National Apprenticeship Week 2024**

Thank you for celebrating the 10th anniversary of National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) with us! With your partnership, we had a record-breaking 1580 apprenticeship events and nearly 900 proclamations. Your hard work in showcasing the transformative power of Registered Apprenticeships has made a positive impact throughout the country.

In response to stakeholder feedback, NAW is moving to the Spring! To help with the transition, there will be a single National Apprenticeship Day for 2025, and we will be resuming the week-long celebration of NAW in 2026. Please note the NAW dates for the next four years:

April 30, 2025 – National Apprenticeship Day

April 26 through May 2, 2026 – National Apprenticeship Week

April 25 through May 1, 2027 – National Apprenticeship Week

April 23 through April 29, 2028 - National Apprenticeship Week

Learn about the change and more in Acting Secretary of Labor, Julie Su's NAW 2024 Wrap-Up Blog.

#### **National Apprenticeship System Enhancements**



The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for National Apprenticeship System Enhancements introduced in January 2024, have been withdrawn as of December 27, 2024. By withdrawing the proposed rule, the Department is eliminating the pending nature of this rulemaking. The Department intends to engage with all interested parties to discuss and consider future enhancements and impacts for the quality and expansion of registered apprenticeship and the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the National Apprenticeship System. More information can be found at <a href="Federal Register: National Apprenticeship System Enhancements;">Federal Register: National Apprenticeship System Enhancements;</a> Withdrawal.

For more up-to-date announcements Sign up for the Apprenticeship Newsletter

#### REGISTRATION AGENCY TOOLS & SUPPORT

### Registration of Apprenticeship Programs and Apprentices for Tribal Governments and Instrumentalities

On December 2, 2025, the Office of Apprenticeship issued new guidance clarifying the eligibility of tribal entities or any instrumentalities of the tribes to serve as sponsors of registered apprenticeship programs and their eligibility to be registered by OA or an SAA with availability of exemptive relief from certain federal regulatory requirements. The <u>Circular 2025-01</u>, can be located at <u>Circulars | Apprenticeship.gov</u>.

#### Framework for Preparing and Infrastructure Workforce

On December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, USDOL's Employment and Training Administration issued <u>Change 1 to Training and Employment Notice No. 08-22: Building Pathways to Infrastructure Careers - Framework for Preparing and <u>Infrastructure Workforce.</u> The change promotes a framework for all workforce stakeholders, including infrastructure project leads, to engage the public workforce system in implementing the Investing in America (IIA) funding with strong workforce commitments and proven strategies that produce high-quality education, training, and employment opportunities for all workers. This update also includes several examples of registered apprenticeship opportunities for coordination with the public workforce system.</u>

#### **State Apprenticeship Agency Obligations**

<u>Circular 2023-02</u> outlines the roles and responsibilities of State Apprenticeship Agencies (SAA) to retain recognition as an approved registration agency. This includes submission of modifications to state apprenticeship law, registration agency changes, data reporting requirements, apprenticeability of occupations, and reciprocity. Additionally, <u>Circular 2023-02A</u> offers a self-assessment tool for which SAAs may utilize to conduct periodic evaluations of conformity with requirements outlined in 29 CFR Parts 29 and 30. SAAs are encouraged to review these helpful resources in advance of an SAA review.

#### **RAPIDS Changes**

RAPIDS helpdesk email has been changed to <u>apprenticeship.ithelp@oa.dol.gov</u>. Effective 12/20/2024 at 6PM EST apprenticeship.ithelp@dol.gov will no longer be active and Helpdesk will not be able to receive email for up to an hour during the transition.

#### **New Apprenticeable Occupations**

The Office of Apprenticeship approved 16 new apprenticeable occupations in 2024 including Game Designer, Real Estate Sales Agent, Nanotechnology Engineering Technician, and Anesthesia Technologist. All new occupations can be found at: <a href="Bulletins">Bulletins</a> | Apprenticeship.gov. This work will surely help registration agencies expand apprenticeship in 2025. To begin the process of establishing a new, apprenticeable occupation, the request tool can be found <a href="HERE">HERE</a>.

#### **Infrastructure Learning Community**

Join the Infrastructure Learning Community (ILC) today and become part of a powerful network driving the future of infrastructure projects! The ILC, a technical assistance initiative from the Department of Labor in partnership with Jobs for the Future, offers stakeholders an opportunity to collaborate, share resources, and learn from peers leading initiatives funded by major federal Investing in America programs, including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act. ILC participants will gain access to a centralized hub filled with subject matter expert insights, relevant resources, and opportunities for real-time collaboration. Learn more and register to join the ILC here: WorkforceGPS - Infrastructure Learning Community (ILC).

#### APPRENTICESHIP EVENTS

#### Workforce Development Institute January 28 -31, 2025 Coronado, CA

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Workforce Development Institute (WDI) is executing their 2025 conference titled: Uncharted Courses. The draft agenda can be found <a href="mailto:here">here</a> and the website for registration is <a href="mailto:Workforce Development Institute - AACC">Workforce Development Institute - AACC</a>. Contact John Dyer for details and specific requests at <a href="mailto:jdyer@aacc.nche.edu">jdyer@aacc.nche.edu</a>.

#### Prevailing Wage Seminar March 18 -19, 2025 Webinar

The Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division is offering a free 2-day seminar online covering Davis-Bacon, Service Contract Act, and other related compliance topics. View the agenda and register at: March 2025 Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Seminar Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite.

#### Ignite 2025 Conference May 19-22, 2025 Long Beach, CA

Join industry professionals for the most comprehensive and intensive Davis-Bacon Act and prevailing wage training and education conference at next year's <u>Ignite 2025 Conference</u>. Draft agenda can be found <u>HERE</u>. Interested in being a speaker? Reach out to the event coordinator, Kayla Taormina, at <a href="mailto:ktaormina@lcptracker.com">ktaormina@lcptracker.com</a> for more information.

Do you have an upcoming event you'd like to have shared on Apprenticeship.gov?

Go to: Submit an Event | Apprenticeship.gov

REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP ACADEMY



New online trainings have been added to the Registered Apprenticeship (RA) Academy including *Customer Service Excellence*, *Reciprocity in RA*, and *Reasonable Accommodations* in apprenticeship. Whether you are a registration agency, state apprenticeship council member, program sponsor, or any other stakeholder in the apprenticeship community, you'll appreciate the variety of learning modules found at:

Registered Apprenticeship Academy | Apprenticeship.gov.

#### GRANT AWARDS

#### Women in Apprenticeship & Non-Traditional Occupations Grant

U.S. DOL announced the award of \$6 million in funding to help recruit, train, and retain more women in quality pre-apprenticeship and RA programs, as well as in nontraditional occupations. The Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) grants will enable organizations in eight states and D.C. to provide training programs in fields where women are traditionally underrepresented, such as construction, advanced manufacturing, energy, technology, and transportation. Region 6 captured 3 of those grants:

- Dev/Mission (San Francisco, CA)
- Fresh Start Women's Foundation (Phoenix, AZ)
- So. Nevada Building Trades Union (Las Vegas, NV)

Congratulations to our regional recipients of the WANTO grants. To learn more about the WANTO grant program and the full list of this year's recipients <u>HERE</u>.

#### Scaling Apprenticeship Readiness Across the Building Trades Initiative

Trades Futures, in partnership with the National Urban League, will soon be entering year 3 of its \$19,821,832 cooperative agreement to increase the number of participants from underrepresented populations and underserved communities in registered apprenticeship programs. This construction industry sector project will leverage a unique and proven apprenticeship readiness curriculum (MC3) for construction trades, a dynamic partnership model, and the ability for national reach for union placement opportunities for program graduates. The <a href="awardee abstract">awardee abstract</a> offers more detail regarding the project and contact information for potential partnerships. The <a href="sub-awardee list">sub-awardee list</a> provides a variety of current local efforts under the award and sub-awardees in our region include:

- Second Chance at Phoenix West Phoenix, AZ
- Trades Build Futures @ Las Artes Tucson, AZ
- People Working Together Sacramento, CA

Interested in other grant funding opportunities?

Department of Labor Grants | U.S. Department of Labor

## FINAL REGIONAL MESSAGE

Greetings Sponsors, Partners and Stakeholders,

As we begin a new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible efforts that you have in the expanding and innovating apprenticeship opportunities. The start of 2025 offers us a chance to continue to explore new occupations, develop innovative solutions, partnership development and driving growth of apprenticeship programs across the region and nationwide.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to connect with all Registered Apprenticeship State Directors at our upcoming Quarterly meeting, where we will discuss next steps based on the results of our recent Region 6 State Apprenticeship Collaboration Survey. If you haven't yet had the chance, we kindly ask that you complete the survey <a href="here">here</a> at your earliest convenience. We look forward to your input as it is invaluable in shaping our collective progress and tailoring upcoming discussions.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication and partnership. Together, we're continuously building on the foundation for a stronger, more innovative apprenticeship system in the year ahead.

Wishing you and your teams a successful and fulfilling 2025.

Best regards, Erica Johnson Regional Director

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Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Marshall Islands, Nevada, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, and Washington