

Mass Workforce Issuance

100 DCS 22.102

Policy Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Board Chairs
Workforce Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
Department of Career Services

Date: June 29, 2016

Subject: **ApprenticeshipUSA State Expansion Grants**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners of a funding opportunity, *ApprenticeshipUSA State Expansion Grants* through the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL or the Department) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announced on Grants.gov June 22, 2016.

Background: The Department's goal is to double and further diversify Registered Apprenticeships (RA) across the country. Currently, there are approximately 450,000 Registered Apprentices in the US and American and international employers are increasingly turning to Registered Apprenticeship as a workforce solution to help workers acquire 21st century postsecondary education credentials.

Funding Opportunity Number:	FOA-ETA – 16-13
Application Deadline:	September 7, 2016
Expected Number of Awards:	33
Total Program Funding:	\$50,500,000
Award Ceiling:	\$3,200,000
Award Floor:	\$700,000
Period of Performance:	18 Months
Eligible Applicants*:	States as defined at 29 CFR § 29.2 - "State" means "any of the 50 States of the US, District of Columbia, or any Territory or possession of the US"

* Applicants must identify the State agency that will be the grant recipient. This entity will have the sole responsibility for administering the project and will serve as the ApprenticeshipUSA State Expansion Grants' fiscal agent.

GOALS -

1. Help States advance RA as a workforce strategy and post-secondary education career pathway that maintains the nation's strong, adaptable, and highly skilled workforce.
2. Support integrated, statewide apprenticeship strategies and State Capacity to engage industry and meet the demand for new programs in both traditional and non-traditional industries such as IT, Healthcare, Advanced Manufacturing, Building Trades, Cybersecurity, Business Services, among others.
3. Catalyze State innovations to significantly increase apprenticeship opportunities for all American workers, particularly low-income individuals and underrepresented populations in apprenticeship including youth, women, communities of color, Native Americans, and persons with disabilities.

PROJECT DESIGN – reviewed/scored based on ability regarding:

- Governor-supported ApprenticeshipUSA State Expansion strategy
- Build State capacity to support Apprenticeship expansion
- State alignment of RAs, workforce, education and economic development strategies
- Supporting employer demand through strong engagement w/industry & workforce intermediaries
- Increased participation in Apprenticeship of traditionally underrepresented populations through innovation equity and inclusion/diversification strategies
- State investment and leveraged resources supporting RA expansion
- Statewide promotion and outreach
- Apprenticeship data collection, reporting, and regulatory modernization
- Efforts to promote quality RA programs
- Plans for continuation funding

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE –

Applicants must provide a comprehensive project plan to cover **3.5 years** of grant activity but only the first 18 months of the project will be funded with Fiscal Year 2016 funds and the FY 2016 grant award will carry with it an 18 month period of performance. Should Congress appropriate additional funds for this purpose in FY17 and FY18, DOL may consider up to two additional rounds of continuation awards under this solicitation.

PROGRAM FUNDING -

Grant amounts will range from up to \$700,000 - \$3,200,000, based on the current number of apprentices in the State and the State's level of activities and commitment to innovate and expand Registered Apprenticeship. There are 3 categories of funding – Massachusetts falls into Category 1. See page 10 of the FOA for details.

Category 1 will receive approximately 11 grants. States in this category have 7,000 or more Registered Apprentices. Massachusetts and 17 other states will be

eligible for a \$23.3 million pool of funds. Each category is further broken down into OA States and SAA States:

OA = DOL's Office of Apprenticeship administers the program

SAA = State Apprenticeship Agency (MA)

MA is eligible to apply for a base award of up to \$1.5m

CAP BREAKER INNOVATION AWARDS -

MA is eligible to exceed \$1.5M by proposing one or both Cap Breaker Innovation pilot projects (optional – see Section IV.B.4, page 30)

- Equity: up to \$500,000 (Innovations to expand access to underrepresented populations)
- Industry: up to \$1,200,000 (Innovations to increase industry demand for RA)

Applicants wishing to receive Cap Breaker funding must submit a separate project narrative and budget information for each option.

Action

Requested: Please share the information regarding this funding opportunity with management, staff and partners as appropriate.

Massachusetts will submit an application for this funding opportunity. To build a strong application we are requesting ideas from state partners and local workforce development systems on how to best expand Registered Apprenticeship across the state. Please review the FOA and submit a summary of interest, using the attached template, to Leslie Seifried at Leslie.Seifried@MassMail.State.MA.US by Wednesday, July 6th. Responses will be compiled and a system wide conference call will be arranged to establish the direction that Massachusetts will take in developing the application and expanding Registered Apprenticeship.

Attachment: Concept Template