



Workforce Issuance

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☐ Policy ☒ Information

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

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
MassHire Department of Career Services

Date: March 4th, 2020

Subject: Funding Opportunity: Apprenticeship Expansion – Innovation Grants 2020

Purpose: To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators and other workforce partners of funding opportunities for [Apprenticeship Expansion - Innovation Grants](#) through CommBuys.

Background: EOLWD, in partnership with the Apprentice Advisory Group, published the [Apprenticeship Expansion Strategic Plan](#) in June 2018. The objective of the Plan is to articulate a state-level approach to the expansion and diversity of Registered Apprenticeship across the Commonwealth. The vision is for Massachusetts to be home to a vibrant and diverse apprenticeship ecosystem with programs that drive Massachusetts to maintain its competitive, thriving and innovative economy.

In FY2019, Governor Baker and the Massachusetts Legislature approved the first budget line item dedicated to apprenticeship expansion, which included \$500K

to support the expansion effort. The line item was renewed for FY2020 and supports the **Apprenticeship Expansion – Innovation Grants 2020**. The procurement targets several specific objectives related to expansion and diversification of apprenticeship programs in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Specifically, funds will support the following components of Apprenticeship Expansion:

Category 1: Apprenticeship Support Staffing. Funds will support new or existing career coaching or employer services staff to provide cross-sector apprenticeship workforce delivery services. The funds will support the capacity of workforce services entities to provide in-person services to jobseeker and/or employer customers seeking apprenticeship information and services, and support employer sponsors and/or jobseekers currently enrolled in apprenticeship programs.

Category 2: Apprenticeship Pathways Resources. Funds will support development of apprentice pathways frameworks and recommend a corresponding online tool (e.g. application, website/page) that will enable a user to visualize and map sector-based apprenticeship pathways to employment. The framework and recommended online tool should enable users such as students, educators and workforce service providers to more seamlessly access sector-specific education and work-based learning resources in the pursuit of employment.

Action

Required: Please share with managers, staff and partners as appropriate. RFR is open and EOLWD anticipates awardees to be notified by March 20, 2020. Contracts will be issued and executed upon award notification and funds must be expended by June 30, 2020.

*** EOLWD/MassHire DCS is the recipient of multiple DOL-funded apprenticeship grants and receives technical assistance and support from Maher & Maher and USDOL, who will be facilitating an apprenticeship workshop, hosted by MDCS, in early April 2020. The workshop will address the apprenticeship model in depth, employer engagement, and WIOA support for registered apprenticeship. Awardees of Apprenticeship Expansion – Innovation Grants are welcomed and encouraged to attend the training.

Inquiries: Visit <https://www.commbuys.com> for details. Bid Solicitation: BD-20-1043-DAO01-32500-48570