

New and Expanded Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) Grant

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Updated Dec. 30, 2024

What is the goal of this grant program?

This grant is fully funded through a \$4.7 million State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula Grant (Award #25A60AP000057) that the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) received from the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA). This grant seeks to assist with the high cost of starting a new registered apprenticeship program (RAP) and expanding existing RAPs.

What is a registered apprenticeship program (RAP)?

A RAP is a successful and innovative employee training model that can be designed to meet employers' needs to recruit, train and retain 21st century talent. From day one, an apprentice earns, learns and works for their employers as they receive structured on-the-job learning (OJL) and related classroom instruction. RAPs help businesses develop highly skilled and motivated employees, reduce turnover rates, increase worker productivity, and lower the cost of recruitment.

How is registered apprenticeship different from other types of work-based training models?

There are several factors that differentiate registered apprenticeship from other training models.

- Registered apprentices earn wages from their employer while training.
- RAPs provide both on-the-job learning and accompanying related classroom training.
- OJL learning is conducted on an actual job site under the watchful eye of a mentor.
- The completed training results in an industry-recognized and portable credential.
- The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry administers a formal registration process and completes annual program reviews to ensure programs meet state and federal apprenticeship requirements.

Who can apply for the New and Expanded RAPs Grant funding?

Any employer with a physical address in the State of Minnesota that is seeking to create a RAP, or any existing RAP registered by the DLI in the State of Minnesota that is seeking to expand its program. The employer or RAP may be a for profit, nonprofit or public organization.

What is the period of performance?

The period of performance for this grant is 18 months from the date the grant contract with DLI is fully executed. As mentioned above, the source of the grant funding is a USDOL ETA grant, which ends June 30, 2027.

What does expansion of a RAP mean?

Expansion of an existing RAP for this grant program means:

1. addition of a new industry, or
2. addition of a new occupation.

What are the targeted industries for this grant?

The following industries are considered “targeted” for the development of new or expanding apprenticeship programs in this grant: education, semiconductors, information technology, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, hospitality, the public sector, and construction.

What’s the process for getting grant funding?

Applications are accepted beginning Dec. 20, 2024, and will continue to be accepted on a rolling basis until funds are depleted, or by April 30, 2026, whichever comes first. Eligible applications will be reviewed on a monthly basis. After the review, awards will be determined by DLI’s commissioner, then applicants will be notified whether they were or were not awarded grant funding.

Prior to a contract, the grant awardee will need to register in the State of Minnesota’s SWIFT system for accounting purposes. That can be done even before grant awards are made. Grant applicants can find information about the SWIFT system at <https://mn.gov/mmb/accounting/swift/> or contact the SWIFT help desk at <https://mn.gov/mmb/accounting/swift/help-desk/>.

A fully executed contract must be signed prior to any grant funding,

Can grant funds be used to pay apprentice wages?

No, funds may not be used to pay apprentice wages.

What are open licensing requirements?

Any new course planning and curriculum developed with grant funds needs to be broadly shared. See below for Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 definition:

“Intellectual property developed under this contract must be licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 (CC BY 4.0) license, which allows subsequent users to copy, distribute, transmit, and adapt the copyrighted work and requires such users to attribute the work.”

How can applicants register for or access the recorded request for proposal (RFP) webinar?

The RFP webinar dates and times are below, click the link to register.

- [Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025, 9 a.m.](#)
- [Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025, Noon](#)

A recording of the RFP webinar will be posted on the [grant website](#).

What is the unique entity identifier (UEI) Number?

All organizations applying for federal funding must have a unique entity identifier (UEI). A UEI is a unique 12-character ID number that is used to track how the federal grant is allocated. Register for or verify a UEI number at (<https://sam.gov/content/home>). As a sub-awardee on this grant, you only need to get a UEI and not register in SAM.gov (no entity registration required). The information required for getting a UEI ID without registration is minimal, see [GSAFSD Tier 0 Knowledge Base - What's the difference between only getting a Unique Entity ID \(UEI\) and registering your entity?](#)

What is Apprenticeship Minnesota?

Apprenticeship Minnesota at DLI helps employers develop and register apprenticeship programs and promote workforce diversity through outreach and education. Employers design their own RAP that provides apprentices with specific skills, training and job-related instruction tailored to the company's needs.

Where can a listing of “apprenticeable” occupations be found?

The USDOL provides an updated list of all “apprenticeable” occupations at www.apprenticeship.gov/apprenticeship-occupations.

If interested in developing a new, or expanding an existing RAP, at what point should an application for funding be submitted?

An application for the New and Expanded RAP Grant should be submitted after discussion with an Apprenticeship Minnesota senior field representative. This discussion will determine if the occupation(s) is “apprenticeable” under the USDOL guidelines.

Contact a senior field representative:

Email: dli.apprenticeship@state.mn.us

Phone: 651-284-5090 or 1-800-342-5354

Contact Ruth Taylor at: Ruth.Taylor@state.mn.us with grant questions.