



APPRENTICESHIP WORKS

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SHARE THE BENEFITS OF APPRENTICESHIP

Know someone interested in becoming an apprentice? Or an employer who wants to start an apprenticeship program? Information and resources are available at apprenticeship.mn.gov.

SAVE THE DATE FOR NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2026

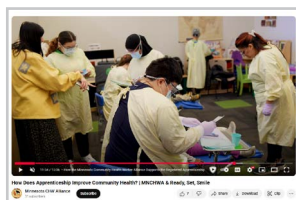
Traditionally, National Apprenticeship Week has been celebrated in mid-November. However, the United States Department of Labor recently changed National Apprenticeship Week to be celebrated in the spring each year. The next National Apprenticeship Week is **April 26 to May 2, 2026**.

We encourage programs, educators and other organizations to host their National Apprenticeship Week celebrations with us this spring. If you would like to partner on an event or learn how you can celebrate National Apprenticeship Week, contact naomi.cowan@state.mn.us.

FEATURED STORIES



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APPRENTICESHIP MINNESOTA ON-THE-GO

Apprenticeship Minnesota staff members visit registered programs to learn how individual apprenticeships operate on a day-to-day basis.

Recently, staff members learned firsthand what it takes to be an elevator constructor, mechatronics technician, operating engineer and to work in one of Minnesota's largest wastewater treatment facilities.

We appreciate all the programs that take time out of their busy schedules to host tours. These visits help our staff members better understand each program, allowing them to provide more relevant technical assistance and strengthen outreach efforts.



Apprenticeship Minnesota tour of the Met Council.



Apprenticeship Minnesota staff members at Buhler Apprenticeship Academy.



Apprenticeship Minnesota staff members learn about operating engineers.

Have an event coming up?

If you have an event you would like us to attend, contact us at dli.apprenticeship@state.mn.us.

NEXT REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP 101 WEBINAR IS DEC. 2

Join registered apprenticeship development staff members at 1 p.m. on Dec. 2, 2025, to learn about registering an apprenticeship program in a non-traditional industry. [Sign up here to attend.](#)



APPRENTICESHIP GRANT FOR EDUCATORS EXPANDED

The [Introduction to Registered Apprenticeship for Educators Grant](#) was recently updated to expand the application pool to school districts, charter schools, Tribally Controlled Schools and service cooperatives across the state. Grant funding can be used for busing students or educators to apprenticeship training centers, Construct Tomorrow events or other registered apprenticeship outreach events.

If you are an educator and have questions about how to use these funds or would like help finding an apprenticeship outreach event, contact naomi.cowan@state.mn.us and ruth.taylor@state.mn.us.

MORE THAN \$260K IN APPRENTICESHIP GRANTS AWARDED TO MINNESOTA BUSINESSES TO BUILD, GROW PROGRAMS

More than \$260,000 as part of the New or Expanded Registered Apprenticeship grant program has been awarded to 10 Minnesota businesses. The grant helps businesses start or grow registered apprenticeship programs. It can be used to develop curriculum and training materials, buy tools, software and other supplies. More than \$400,000 is still available. [Learn more and apply for a grant.](#)

Organizations that have received funding so far include:

- Blue Pine Works LLC
- Boston Scientific
- Cinch Connectivity Solutions
- Dignified Choice Care
- Horizon Chemical LLC
- Riverwood Healthcare Center
- Marshall Manufacturing
- Nordic Underwater Services Inc.
- Teacher Apprenticeship Minnesota
- Minnesota Teacher Apprenticeship JATC



APPRENTICESHIP MINNESOTA BY-THE-NUMBERS

Apprentices, as of Sept. 30, 2025

Total	12,172
Women	996
People of Color	3,261
Veterans	602
Disability	232

Apprentices by age

18-24 years old	49%
25-34 years old	32%
35 years old and over	18%

New apprentices by month

July	August	Sept.
295	449	321

Completions by month

July	August	Sept.
118	121	72

Sponsors, as of Sept. 30, 2025

Active sponsors	151
New sponsors	2
Participating employers	4,877

Apprentice participation by race/ethnic group

American Indian/Alaska Native	3%
Asian	3%
Black/African American	8%
Hispanic	12%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	<0.5%
Multiple race	2%
White	71%
Did not self-identify	15%

This newsletter was funded as part of a \$3.3 million grant through the U.S. Department of Labor to support the expansion of registered apprenticeship in Minnesota.

LEAP GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: MINNESOTA COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER ALLIANCE

The [Minnesota Community Health Worker Alliance \(MNCHWA\)](#) is a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the development, growth and utilization of community health workers in various workplace settings.

Community health workers connect individuals and families with health and human services providers by bridging communication gaps and addressing barriers to medical care and community resources. They provide health education, care coordination, outreach, screening and person-centered support to improve physical and behavioral health outcomes. MNCHWA provides community health workers, supervisors, employers and partner organizations with valuable resources including convening statewide peer support meetings and training opportunities, advocacy and workforce development.

In spring 2025, MNCHWA became a registered apprenticeship program sponsor to address the structural and organizational barriers community health workers may face entering the workforce and earning a community health worker certificate. Apprenticeships provide a clear runway for both apprentices and apprenticeship sites to build-out, pilot and strengthen their organization's delivery of services to their local communities.

Grant funding

With funding from the [Labor Education Advancement Program \(LEAP\)](#) grant, MNCHWA was able to hire staff to coordinate the program and to create outreach materials — [including a promotional video](#) — in collaboration with another registered community health worker program, to increase both employer and worker awareness of registered apprenticeship. The grant also enables MNCHWA to support the administration of their program and develop a virtual training platform to support employers upskilling their current community health workers. As an apprenticeship sponsor, MNCHWA leverages what they do best — partner with community health workers and allies to strengthen the workforce pipeline and co-build the future of health care delivery.

If you are interested in pursuing a career as a community health worker, [visit MNCHWA's website](#).



MNCHWA used grant funds to create outreach materials, including a promotional video.

ATTEND A CONSTRUCT TOMORROW EVENT

Construct Tomorrow is a partnership of union contractors and apprenticeship training centers in Minnesota created to give high school students hands-on exposure to registered apprenticeship opportunities in the construction trades. Events are offered around the state each school year where students can explore up to 15 different crafts and trades.

2025 event dates:

- Oct. 28, Rochester
- Nov. 18, Mankato
- Dec. 3, Brooklyn Center



[Learn more and sign up to attend an event.](#)

BLUEPRINTS TO THE TRADES WEBINARS BEGIN OCT. 28

Live webinars designed for those looking to enter the construction trades

Construction Careers Foundation is partnering with Apprenticeship Minnesota to host their [Blueprints to the Trades series](#). This series will be offered as live webinar sessions and is designed for wide variety of audiences including educators, high school students and individuals who want to enter the construction trades through registered apprenticeship.



All webinars will be recorded for educators to share with their classrooms throughout the school year.

Session 1: Tuesday, Oct. 28, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. — Pathways to Welding Through Registered Apprenticeship

This webinar, designed for high school students and educators, will explore how registered apprenticeship can open the door to a future career in welding. Many students often express interest in welding careers but may find the pathway to this meaningful career can be difficult to figure out.

Session 2: Wednesday, Nov. 12, noon to 1 p.m. — Tools of Trades: Apprenticeship Panel

Are you curious about starting your career through registered apprenticeship? A panel of current apprentices will share how they discovered apprenticeship opportunities, got started and how they are learning a craft while getting paid.

Session 3: Tuesday, Dec. 9, 6 to 7 p.m. — Intent to Hire 101

"Intent to hire" is a phrase you may hear when looking into registered apprenticeship programs. It means an apprentice needs to secure employment with a contractor before being accepted into an apprenticeship program and starting classroom training. In this webinar, you will hear from apprenticeship programs about the work they do and how intent to hire works in their trade. Participants will also hear from a contractor who hires new apprentices, sharing what they look for in a potential apprentice.

Visit the [Blueprints to the Trades Speaker Series event page](#) for more information and to sign up.

UPDATES ABOUT USDOL PROPOSED RULEMAKING

On July 2, 2025, the U.S. Department of Labor published a notice of proposed rulemaking titled [Prohibiting Illegal Discrimination in Registered Apprenticeship Programs](#). The proposed rules would remove equal employment opportunity and affirmative action principles and requirements from federal apprenticeship regulations.

In August, Apprenticeship Minnesota hosted three stakeholder listening sessions to gather feedback from apprenticeship programs to inform the agency's public comments about the proposed rules. Comments on the proposed rulemaking were due on Sept. 2, 2025, and [Apprenticeship Minnesota's comments can be viewed here](#).

Apprenticeship Minnesota will host additional sessions for stakeholders when more information is available.