

Frequently asked questions for Registered Apprenticeships of Tomorrow's Clean Economy Grant - Semiconductors

Updated Sept. 24, 2024

What is the goal of the Registered Apprenticeships of Tomorrow's Clean Economy Grant – Semiconductors?

This grant is fully funded through a \$1,805,450 State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula Grant (23A60AP000014-01-03) that DLI received from the US Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration. This grant seeks to support the 2022 Minnesota Climate Action Framework which sets a vision for how Minnesota will address and prepare for climate change and will provide support to semiconductor employers to develop or expand registered apprenticeship programs in this clean economy.

Who can apply for the Registered Apprenticeship of Tomorrow's Clean Economy Grant– Semiconductors?

Applicants must be an employer or a registered apprenticeship program in the semiconductor industry in the State of Minnesota. Multi-organizational collaboratives are not allowed for this grant.

What is considered semiconductor industry?

According to the semiconductor industry association ([SIA](#)):

“Semiconductors, sometimes referred to as integrated circuits (ICs) or microchips, are the brains of modern electronics, enabling advances in medical devices and health care, communications, computing, defense and aerospace, transportation and infrastructure, energy, and technologies of the future such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and advanced wireless networks.”

If you are unsure if your industry occupation qualifies, please call or email with questions.

What is the period of performance?

The period of performance for this grant is November 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. As mentioned above, the source of the grant funding is a USDOL/ETA grant, which ends June 30, 2025.

What are administrative costs?

Administrative costs may include, but are not limited to, administrative oversight, accounting support, insurance and facility rent or overhead. Staff listed in personnel cannot also be funded through administrative costs. Administrative costs cannot exceed 5% of the total grant budget.

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If I develop a registered apprenticeship program or a new occupation, how many apprentices do I need to enroll during the period of performance.

A minimum of one apprentice needs to be enrolled in a newly developed program or occupation during the period of performance to be eligible for funding under this grant.

Under grant activities, explain what do you mean by “offset journeyworkers wages who are training apprentices”?

Once an apprentice has been enrolled, the grantee can receive a one-time reimbursement per journey-level for mentor wages while training a new apprentice, which can be reimbursed after the initial training period of three months (not to exceed 480 hours).

What’s the process for getting grant funding?

Submit an application before the submission deadline. After the application period ends, all eligible applications will be reviewed. After the review, awards will be made by DLI’s commissioner and awardees will be notified. Prior to any grant spending, a fully executed contract will need to be signed.

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. You can find information on the SWIFT website: <https://mn.gov/mmb/accounting/swift/>. And here is a link to the SWIFT help desk if you have additional questions: <https://mn.gov/mmb/accounting/swift/help-desk/>.

Open licensing requirements

Any new course planning and curriculums developed with grant funds needs to be broadly shared, see below 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 we register for the RFP webinar? Will the webinar be recorded?

The link for the RFP webinar is posted on the grant website at:

<https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workforce/registered-apprenticeships-tomorrows-clean-economy-grant-semiconductors>. The webinar will take place on Tuesday September 17, 2024. and a recording will be posted on the 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 twelve-character ID number that is used to track how the federal grant is allocated. Register for or verify a UEI number (<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?](#).

Does this grant cover program development for pre-apprenticeship costs?

Funds for program development for pre-apprenticeship pipeline programs are not allowable under this RFP. DLI anticipates offering grants for development of pre-apprenticeship programs in the future, however there is no date set yet.

Can funds under this grant be used to create program swag to create an inclusive culture?

Funds can be used to purchase supplies, materials and tools that are directly related to the training of the apprentices. In general, swag is not considered a valid grant expense.

What is Apprenticeship Minnesota?

Apprenticeship Minnesota helps employers develop and register apprenticeship programs (RAPs) 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.

What is registered apprenticeship (RAP)?

Registered apprenticeship 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 (OJT) training and related classroom instruction (RTI). 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 (RAP) from other training models.

1. Registered apprentices earn wages from their employer while training;
2. RAPs provide both on-the-job training and accompanying related classroom training;
3. OJT learning is conducted on an actual job site under the watchful eye of a mentor; and
4. The completed training results in an industry-recognized and portable credential.