Registered Apprenticeship programs are a proven approach to preparing workers for in-demand jobs and meeting the needs of business for a highly skilled workforce that can innovate and adapt. The Iowa Apprenticeship Program is available to increase the number of registered apprentices in Iowa by providing training grants to registered programs. The program is administered by the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) in coordination with the United States Department of Labor (DOL), Office of Apprenticeship (OA).

A registered apprenticeship is an employer-driven model that combines on-the-job learning with related classroom instruction to increase the apprentice’s skill level and wages. It’s a flexible training strategy that can be customized to meet the needs of every business, and it can be integrated into current training and HR development strategies. Apprenticeship training is an “earn while you learn” model because apprentices receive a paycheck while learning on the job. Over 636,000 apprentices participate every year in nearly 26,000 registered programs across the country. In Iowa, there are already over 800 registered programs training nearly 8,000 apprentices.

**REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS STRETCH BEYOND THE TRADES**

Although apprenticeships are often thought of as a training model for construction-related industries, the application is much more extensive. There are apprentices in over 1,000 occupations, including careers in healthcare, advanced manufacturing, energy, transportation, logistics and more. In Iowa, apprenticeship opportunities continue to expand with new programs and occupations added each year. The possibilities of this effective training model are endless.

**BENEFITS FOR BUSINESS**
- Higher productivity
- Highly skilled employees
- Reduced turnover costs

**BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYERS**
- Increased skills
- Higher wages
- National credentials
- Career advancement

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IOWA APPRENTICESHIP ACT

The Iowa Apprenticeship Act was passed in 2014, increasing the available funding to $3 million for training grants awarded to “sponsors” to conduct and maintain an apprenticeship program. To be eligible to apply for a training grant, a sponsor must have a registered apprenticeship program that meets DOL/OA specific requirements and standards. Funds awarded may only be used to help cover the cost of conducting and maintaining an apprenticeship training program.

TRAINING GRANTS

Applications are accepted from any Iowa-registered DOL/OA sponsor and are due by February 1 for the previous training year (January through December). Funding available under this grant is based on the applicant’s proportionate share of the statewide total of qualified registered apprentices participating in a qualified registered apprenticeship program. A qualified apprenticeship program must be registered with the DOL/OA and the program must provide a minimum of 100 in-person contact hours to qualify for funding. A qualified registered apprentice that can be included in the applicant’s total apprentice count is defined as an active or completed apprentice during the most recent training year.

For more information on the training grants or to apply, visit: earnandlearniowa.gov/funding

BECOME A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP SPONSOR

Becoming a registered apprenticeship sponsor can prepare your company to build and sustain a high-skilled workforce, now and in the future. Visit earnandlearniowa.gov to learn more.

QUESTIONS

To learn more, contact Registered Apprenticeship Program Coordinator Kris Byam at 515-725-3663 or kristopher.byam@iwd.iowa.gov