

New and Expanded Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) Grant

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Updated Nov. 6, 2025

What is the goal of this grant program?

This grant program seeks to aid employers in the development of new registered apprenticeship programs and in the expansion of existing apprenticeship programs in apprenticeable occupations. Priority will be given to programs in targeted industries: education, semiconductors, information technology, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, hospitality, the public sector and construction.

This grant is fully funded through a \$4,700,000 State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula Grant (Award # 25A60AP000057) that the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) received from the US Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration.

What is a registered apprenticeship program (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 learning (OJL) and related classroom instruction (RI). 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; and
- The completed training results in an industry-recognized and portable credential; and
- DLI 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 Registered Apprenticeship Programs Grant funding?

Any employer with a physical address in Minnesota that is seeking to create a RAP, or any existing RAP in good standing registered by DLI in 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 up to 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 registered apprenticeship program mean?

Expansion of an existing registered apprenticeship program (RAP) for this grant program means:

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

What's the process for getting grant funding?

Applications are accepted beginning Feb. 18, 2026, and will continue to be accepted on a rolling basis until funds are depleted, or Dec., 31, 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 if 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. You can find information on the [SWIFT website](#). Visit the [SWIFT help desk](#) if you have additional questions.

Prior to any grant funding, a fully executed contract must be signed.

Can grant funds be used to pay apprentice wages?

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

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."

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?](#).

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 [United States Department of Labor \(USDOL\)](#) provides a list of all “apprenticeable” occupations. This list is updated regularly.

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 Registered Apprenticeship (RAP) Grant should be submitted after an initial 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 at dli.apprenticeship@state.mn.us or 651-284-5090, or 1-800-342-5354.

For further information, contact Ruth Taylor at: ruth.taylor@state.mn.us