

Labor Education Advancement Program (LEAP) Grant

Frequently asked questions

Last updated May 4, 2026.

1. Who can apply for LEAP funding?

Applicants must be community-based or nonprofit organizations, including 501(c)3 and 501(c)5 organizations, or Minnesota tribal governments as defined in [Minn. Stat. §10.65](#), that can place, support and retain people of color, Indigenous people and women in registered apprenticeship programs in Minnesota. Applicants must be registered, and in good standing, with the Secretary of State in the state of Minnesota.

The state statute that established the LEAP program is listed at the bottom of this FAQ. For the purposes of this funding, K-12 schools, community colleges, tribal colleges and universities are not considered community-based organizations.

2. We are a university, college, institution of higher education or a K-12 school district, can we apply for LEAP funding?

As a general rule, no.

However, an eligible community-based or nonprofit organization grantee (per Question 1) can partner with an institution of higher education or K-12 entity to provide services for program participants.

3. Can a 501(c)3 or 501(c)5 that is based in a state other than Minnesota, but delivers programs and services in Minnesota apply for funding?

No. Applicants must be entities that are based in Minnesota and are registered and in good standing with the Secretary of State in the State of Minnesota.

4. Why is funding limited to serving people who face barriers to employment in registered apprenticeship program, including but not limited to persons of color, Indigenous people and women?

Registered apprenticeship can provide great career opportunities for all participants, yet people of color, Indigenous people and women continue to be underrepresented in registered apprenticeship programs. Currently there are approximately 11,000 people in registered apprenticeship programs; however, only approximately 22% are people of color and Indigenous people and 8% are women.

5. If the applicant is not a DLI-recognized apprenticeship preparation program and wishes to provide training, how can we find one?

You can email Lyla Brown at lyla.brown@state.mn.us, and she will assist in making those connections. This type of technical assistance should be requested by noon, CDT, October 16, 2026.

6. Do applicants need to identify specific registered apprenticeship programs, or are just types of industries or occupations ok?

Specific registered apprenticeship programs should be identified. Keep in mind that while registered apprenticeship programs have traditionally revolved around construction and building trades, there are wider options such as healthcare, information technology, childcare, teaching, etc.

7. What are the minimum age requirements for registered apprentices?

Apprenticeship programs registered with the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) serve and train workers who are 18 years and older.

8. Do registered apprenticeship programs require specific qualifications for people to become an apprentice?

Many registered apprenticeship training programs require that apprentices have a high school diploma or equivalent, a valid driver's license and reliable transportation; however, requirements differ slightly based on the program. As a starting point, you might look at the [Registered Apprenticeship Directory](#).

9. Do applicants have to provide opportunity and guidance for people to enroll with a registered apprenticeship?

Successful applicants will articulate and demonstrate an ability to introduce, provide guidance and facilitate entry, retention, and completion in registered apprenticeship through various means including outreach, education, assessment, preparation, support services, instruction, training, placement and retention activities.

10. Is it ok to provide supports that only retain current registered apprentices, or do we need to also recruit, prepare and enroll registered apprentices, too?

It is ok to focus your grant program on just retention of registered apprentices.

11. Do applicants have to guarantee numbers of new registered apprentices?

Because the purpose of the grant is to facilitate the participation and retention of those who face barriers to employment in registered apprenticeship programs, including but not limited to people of color, Indigenous people and women, DLI is requiring applicants to estimate the number of people it will serve and the number of those who will enter registered apprenticeship programs. Because this can only be a best estimate, grantees are not expected to "guarantee" that number.

12. How much funding can our organization apply for?

There is up to \$1 million available in funding for this round. Applicants can apply for up to \$100,000.

13. How can we find out what the allowable reimbursement rate is for staff travel expenses?

Grantee travel will be reimbursed at the applicable IRS rate. The current IRS rate for 2026 is \$.72.5/mile.

14. Do we have to fill out the application or can we send our proposal in a different format?

Applicants need to complete the LEAP Grant application and provide all required documents listed in the RFP.

15. What kind of reporting and communication will be required of grantees?

Organizations that receive grant funding will need to submit quarterly invoices and quarterly narrative reports with metrics, along with names and demographic information of program participants served and new registered apprentices. There will also be a mid-grant progress report and a final report which differ from the regular quarterly reports. Templates will be provided.

16. How should we calculate administrative costs for the LEAP grant?

For the 2027 LEAP grant, applicants can include administrative costs of up to 10% of their total budget. Qualifying expenses are those incurred by grant recipients in support of the day-to-day operations of their organization. These overhead costs are the expenses that are not directly tied to a specific program purpose. Administrative costs may include, but are not limited to: administrative oversight, accounting support, insurance and facilities.

Applicants will need to provide backup documentation for any requested reimbursements as part of the financial monitoring purposes.

17. How do you define community-based organizations and nonprofit organizations?

A community-based organization is a public or private nonprofit organization which is governed and operated by the specific community it serves and provides education or related services to individuals in that specific community. For the purposes of this grant, a nonprofit organization includes 501(c)3 and 501(c)5 organizations.

18. We currently have a FY26 or FY27 LEAP Grant. Can we apply for this round of LEAP funding?

You may not. Programs that received LEAP Grant funding in the 2026 grant round and FY27 first round are ineligible to apply for additional funding to avoid overlapping grant contracts.

19. Does the state expect a desired number of new apprentices from grantees?

No. Applicants should be judicious about what is a reasonable objective for their program and capacity. Some LEAP grantees serve several hundred participants; others serve one dozen participants.

20. What if I have more questions?

Questions may be submitted by email to Lyla Brown at lyla.brown@state.mn.us.

Please submit questions no later than noon, CDT, October 23, 2026. Questions and answers will be posted each Monday, October 12, October 19, October 26, [on the LEAP Grant webpage](#).

If needed, our agency has access to Language Line, a free language translation service for limited-English speakers. Contact us and we will get in touch with an interpreter at 651-284-5005 or 800-342-5354.

Additional resources

LEAP RFP, application and FAQ can be found [on the LEAP Grant webpage](#).

Legislative language

Minnesota Statute 178.11 Labor Education Advancement Grant Program states:

The commissioner shall establish the labor education advancement grant program for the purpose of facilitating the participation or retention of people of color, Indigenous people, and women in registered apprenticeship programs. The commissioner shall award grants to community-based and nonprofit organizations and Minnesota Tribal governments as defined in section 10.65, serving the targeted populations on a competitive request-for-proposal basis. Interested organizations shall apply for the grants in a form prescribed by the commissioner. As part of the application process, applicants must provide a statement of need for the grant, a description of the targeted population and apprenticeship opportunities, a description of activities to be funded by the grant, evidence supporting the ability to deliver services, information related to coordinating grant activities with other employment and learning programs, identification of matching funds, a budget, and performance objectives. Each submitted application shall be evaluated for completeness and effectiveness of the proposed grant activity.