

Supporting Pennsylvania's Information Technology Sector through Apprenticeships and Pre-Apprenticeships Grant Program

Bidder's Conference Q&A – January 10, 2025

Please Note: All questions and answers have been paraphrased.

- **Q: Is one applicant organization able to submit for both opportunities (to register a new apprenticeship and to expand an existing RAP)?**

A: The organization would be able to submit for both opportunities, however, to apply for both opportunities, a separate application would be needed for each opportunity.

- **Q: What is the funder's definition of a group model? – our organization currently has a registered apprenticeship program with several employer partners. Would this qualify us as a "group model" as opposed to an individual program?**

A: A group model is an apprenticeship model that contains multiple employers. These programs can be unionized (Group Joint), non-unionized, or both (Group Non-Joint). A group sponsor is an umbrella organization for administering a program with multiple associated employers and utilizing the same program structure. Refer to the program's Apprenticeship and Training Representative for specifics on the currently registered program.

- **Q: If a program is scheduled to be registered before the grant's period of performance, should we apply as expansion?**

A: Yes. If the intent is to have the program registered by the period of performance, then you should apply for an expansion. Please be sure to explain within the grant narrative the expectation of having the program registered before the start of the period of performance.

- **Q: If the Local Workforce Development Board is the lead applicant, acting as a fiscal agent to assist smaller organizations in expanding, can we apply to serve multiple individual programs to serve an overall "X" number of apprentices?**

A: This is based on the outcomes specific in the NGA. Refer to page 9 in the NGA. If you are referring to these individual programs as each wanting to apply, each would have to submit an application.

- **Q: For smaller, nontraditional programs who want to expand and serve more apprentices, can they apply for a petition to decrease their ratio values in order to successfully achieve the goal number of apprentices served?**

A: Please refer to the [PA Regulations](#) governing apprenticeships in the state of Pennsylvania. "83.5 Standards of Apprenticeship...

- (7) The ratio of apprentices to journeymen should be consistent with proper supervision, training, and continuity of employment or applicable provisions in collective bargaining agreements. The standard Pennsylvania Apprenticeship and Training Council ratio for Non-Joint programs shall be one apprentice employed for the first, second, third and fourth journeymen regularly employed; two ap- - 20 - prentices for the fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth journeymen regularly employed; three apprentices for the tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth journeymen regularly employed, and so on in units of five journeymen regularly employed. Exemptions to the Pennsylvania Apprenticeship and Training Council's standard ratios may be granted upon written request and approval of the Council."

- **Q: We have a registered IT Apprenticeship and we are the sponsor, can our fiscal agent which is a non-profit organization apply for the grant on our behalf?**

A: From my knowledge, the non-profit could apply, making sure to detail in the project narrative that the sponsor (your organization) of the RAP is partnering with their organization (the non-profit) for the grant. A letter from the sponsor will be needed to show support.

- **Q: For the Supporting Pennsylvania's IT Sector through Registered Apprenticeships and Pre-Apprenticeships grant opportunity can we pursue both opportunities - new and expansion - or is it either/or?**

A: To apply for opportunity 1 and opportunity 2, two separate applications would need to be submitted. Each application should address the specific initiative and outcomes to be reached within the period of performance.

- **Q: Is a fiscal agent a requirement for all applicants? Or, is it only needed if not an eligible applicant?**

A: A fiscal agent is required for all ATO grants. Applicants may serve as their own fiscal agent if they are able to meet the requirements.

- **Q: Do you need to plan to connect with your ATR in your timeline if you're an existing Pre-RAP**

A: It should be noted in the timeline that you have an existing connection with the Pre-RAP division.

- **Q: Aside from the industry focus, are there any key differences between the Ag grant and the Healthcare grant?**

A: The grant opportunity goals are the main differentiator between the sector grants.

- **Q: Will the slide deck/recording be shared with the attendees?**

A: Both are posted on the L&I Grants page.

- **Q: Are there specific occupations that are defined as IT that can be supported by the grant?**

A: If it falls into the realm of information technology, try to find an O*NET code, look on Apprenticeship.gov and see if it is listed as an approved occupation – we need to look at it on a case-by-case basis. Reach out to an Apprenticeship and Training Representative if there are any other questions.

****Added RA Orientation Dates:**

Applicants looking to learn more about registered apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship regulations, it is recommended to attend an RAP or Pre-RAP orientation. If you have already filled out an information request form and would like to attend on a different date than initially indicated, please, reach out to apprenticeship@pa.gov and indicate which date you would like to attend.

Initial Orientation Dates: February 7, 14, 21, 28 and March 7, 14

If you have not yet filled out an information request form, please do so at: [Click here for Info Request Form Link](#). If the date that you want to attend is not available via the form, please, select the “attended in last 6 months option” and a member of our team will follow up.

After submitting your information via the form, you will receive an Outlook meeting invite for the “Registered Apprenticeship Initial Orientation Session” on the date that you selected within the information request form. If you do not receive this invite within 3 business days, please reach out to Apprenticeship@pa.gov.