

Funding Opportunity: DOL Registered Apprenticeship Technical Assistance Centers of Excellence

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – March 23, 2021

The Department of Labor (DOL) released a funding opportunity announcement, “Registered Apprenticeship (RA) Technical Assistance (TA) Centers of Excellence (COE).” DOL will support four COE focused on the expansion and modernization of TA available in the registered apprenticeship system and build on existing apprenticeship efforts already in place. While higher education institutions and organizations could apply as a lead applicant, participating as members of a consortia is encouraged. The opportunity will support the following four RA technical assistance COE:

- **Diversity and Inclusion Center** will focus on providing technical assistance on effective strategies to support demonstrated increases in registered apprenticeship opportunities for underrepresented populations;
- **Strategic Partnerships and System Alignment Center** will provide technical assistance on a national scope to Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) sponsors implementing RAPs. The RA TA Center of Excellence will engage key stakeholders, including federal agencies (e.g., Department of Education), economic development organizations, business, organized labor, and industry groups;
- **Apprenticeship Occupations and Standards Center** will focus on the development of RAP frameworks (competency-based, hybrid, and other innovative models), national RAP standards including those that include industry-recognized credentials, and supporting industry in meeting RAP design and development requirements;
- **Data and Performance and Best Practices Center** will focus on conducting data analysis, data system building, and resource development that will support administrative and systems improvements, including technological advancements that promote registered apprenticeship within state systems.

Single and consortia applications are encouraged for each RA TA Center of Excellence. The FOA states “Public and private, non-profit organizations including institutions of higher education (as defined in Section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act) are eligible to participate as members of the consortium.”

Potential opportunities for higher education institutions and organizations to participate as members:

Diversity and Inclusion Center:

- Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) (required partner)

Strategic Partnerships and System Alignment Center:

- Institutions of Higher Education (optional partner)
- Other Organizations with experience in (on-the-job) OJL, Worked-based Learning, and/or Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship Occupations and Standards Center:

- Institutional Accrediting Agencies/Organizations
- Post-Secondary Education Associations
- Higher Education Consultants

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- Curriculum Development Agencies
- Education and Workforce Research Organizations
- Higher Education Research Organizations
- Industry-based Human Resource Research and Development Groups

Data and Performance and Best Practices Center

- Other Organizations with experience in (on-the-job) OJL, Worked-based Learning, and/or Apprenticeship (optional partner)

Award Information: DOL expects the availability of approximately \$31 million to fund approximately four cooperative agreements:

- Diversity and Inclusion Center: up to \$13 million;
- Strategic Partnerships and System Alignment Center: up to \$7 million;
- Apprenticeship Occupations and Standards Center: up to \$7 million; and
- Data and Performance and Best Practices Center: up to \$4 million.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants will include organizations that can provide TA services on a national scale to support the expansion and modernization of TA available in the registered apprenticeship system.

Due Dates: April 29, 2021, no later than 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Sources and Additional Information:

- The FOA is available at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=332301>.
- A press release announcing the FOA is available at <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210322-1>.