



The Apprenticeship and WIOA Initiative: *Advancing Apprenticeship in the Workforce System*

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What Is the Apprenticeship and WIOA Initiative?

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) establishes new linkages between the workforce system and apprenticeship, and encourages workforce boards to focus resources on work-based training as an effective way to provide employers with skilled workers. This is a perfect time for workforce systems and their partners to integrate apprenticeship into their training strategies.

The *Apprenticeship and WIOA Initiative* will offer the opportunity for state/local workforce systems and their key partners to receive support in launching or expanding apprenticeship strategies. Selected areas will receive customized technical assistance from experienced coaches and engage in opportunities for peer-to-peer learning.

The goals of this initiative are to:

- Advance the use of apprenticeship by the workforce system as a proven strategy to create career opportunities for workers and provide employers with a skilled workforce.
- Integrate apprenticeship as a sustainable workforce solution under WIOA.
- Assist states and local areas with integrating apprenticeship into career pathway initiatives and industry sector strategies.

What Are the Benefits of Participating?

States and local areas participating in the *Apprenticeship and WIOA Initiative* will have access, free of charge, to:

- **An experienced coach** dedicated to helping each area achieve its apprenticeship goals.
- **Customized technical assistance** to help address the area's unique challenges and opportunities to adopting apprenticeship.
- **Opportunities to connect with businesses** serving as Apprenticeship LEADERS.
- **Access to Subject Matter Experts** in a range of key areas, such as developing and registering apprenticeship programs, workforce system operations, and sector strategies.
- **Opportunities for peer-to-peer learning** about effective apprenticeship strategies.



What State and Local Teams Will Participate?

The Employment and Training Administration's (ETA) Office of Apprenticeship (OA) is selecting 8 state and local areas to join the *Apprenticeship and WIOA Initiative*. These areas will participate as teams that consist of:

- **The workforce system**, such as state/local workforce agencies or state/local workforce boards.
- **The State apprenticeship office**, either the State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA) or the OA state office.
- **Key partners**, such as (but not limited to) businesses, industry associations, labor organizations, community colleges or other post-secondary education/training providers, K-12 education, community-based organizations, foundations, and economic development organizations.

What Are the Technical Assistance Activities?

The participating state and local areas will have opportunities to engage in the following activities – all targeted to help each area achieve their unique goals:

- **Technical Assistance Coaching.** Each area will have a dedicated coach who will support the team throughout the process, as well as access to additional experts as needed to help with each area's specific challenges. Coaches will be available for a site visit at the beginning of the process, and then available virtually throughout the life of the project.
- **Team Assessment.** Teams will undertake an assessment with their coach to gauge the opportunities for apprenticeship in their area, the partnerships that are in place, and the challenges to fully integrating apprenticeship as a workforce strategy.
- **Action Plan.** Based on the assessment, teams will develop an action plan outlining the steps necessary to achieve their apprenticeship goals.
- **Peer Learning.** The project will facilitate peer-to-peer learning across the participating areas, as well as with other workforce system's across the country with successful apprenticeship models.
- **Sustainability.** Toward the end of the project, coaches will work with their sites to ensure a plan is in place to support long-term sustainability of the partnership and the apprenticeship strategy.

These activities will be provided by Maher & Maher, ETA's technical assistance provider for apprenticeship and WIOA projects, and will take place between November 2015 and May 2016.