

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	<b>NO.</b> 21-14
	<b>DATE</b> February 4, 2015

**TO:** ALL STATE WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATORS  
 ALL STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE AGENCIES  
 ALL STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS  
 ALL STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE BOARD CHAIRS AND DIRECTORS  
 ALL STATE LABOR COMMISSIONERS  
 ALL FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES

**FROM:** PORTIA WU /s/  
 Assistant Secretary

**SUBJECT:** Funding Opportunity Announcement: American Apprenticeship Initiative Grants

1. **Purpose.** To announce the availability of \$100 million for American Apprenticeship Initiative Grants to public-private partnerships. The Department will award approximately 25 grants from \$2.5 million to \$5 million each, for a period of performance of 5 years from the date of award. The deadline for applying is April 30, 2015.
2. **Background.** This initiative, an unprecedented investment which uses funds collected from employers who hire foreign workers through H 1B visas, is meant to provide a catalyst to expand the American Apprenticeship system. The Department is providing these grants to public-private partnerships consisting of employers, business associations, joint labor-management organizations, labor organizations, community colleges, local and state governments, and other non-profit organizations. Successful applicants, in addition to serving participants directly, will develop registered apprenticeship programs that align with other post-secondary education offerings and create career pathways to long-term careers. They will also help drive strategies at the local level to create new and/or expand existing registered apprenticeship programs in high-skilled, high-growth industries like healthcare, biotechnology, information technology and advanced manufacturing. The grants will promote strategies to develop apprenticeship opportunities for historically under-represented populations, including women, young men and women of color, people with disabilities, and veterans and transitioning service members.

American Apprenticeship (also referred to as Registered Apprenticeship) programs combine job-related technical instruction with structured on-the-job learning experiences. These apprenticeship approaches are flexible and successful applicants can customize them meet the needs of the employer and apprentice. Apprentices “earn while they learn,” receiving wages that progressively increase as their skills are developed during the training program. Upon successful completion of all phases of on-the-job learning and related

instruction components, registered apprentices receive nationally recognized certificates of completion leading to long-term career opportunities.

For more information on Registered Apprenticeship, please visit the Employment and Training Administration's (ETA's) Office of Apprenticeship home page at:

<http://www.doleta.gov/oa/>.

**3. Additional Links to Information and Resources on American Apprenticeship Grants.**

- Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) – Grant Notice - ETA-15-02 - <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=270372>
- Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions – <http://www.doleta.gov/oa/aag.cfm>
- Apprenticeship Toolkit – Quick Start Toolkit – [http://www.doleta.gov/oa/employers/apprenticeship\\_toolkit.pdf](http://www.doleta.gov/oa/employers/apprenticeship_toolkit.pdf)
- Federal Funding for Apprenticeship Playbook – Federal Playbook - <http://www.doleta.gov/oa/federalresources/playbook.pdf>
- Apprenticeship Staff Contact Map – <http://www.doleta.gov/oa/contactlist.cfm>
- Department of Labor American Apprenticeship Grants Website – <http://www.dol.gov/apprenticeship/grants.htm>

- 4. Inquiries.** For further information about the Funding Opportunity Announcement, contact Jeannette Flowers, Grants Management Specialist, Office of Grants Management, at (202) 693-3322. Also, applicants with technical questions should e-mail them to [Flowers.Jeannette@dol.gov](mailto:Flowers.Jeannette@dol.gov) and specifically reference FOA-ETA-15-02, and include a contact name, fax and phone number.