

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)
Apprenticeship Building America Round 2
(ABA2)
Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)
FOA-ETA-24-04

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

1) What organizations can apply for ABA2 grants?

Eligible lead applicants vary by grant category. The following organizations are eligible to apply under each grant category:

Category 1: Ensuring Equitable RAP Pathways and Partnerships Through Pre-apprenticeship Leading to RAP Enrollment:

- Cities;
- Municipalities;
- Workforce Development System Entities - Organizations involved in administering the workforce development system established under WIOA (29 U.S.C. 3151), which are limited to State Workforce Development Boards, Local Workforce Development Boards, and Indian Tribe and Tribal Organizations and Native Hawaiian Organizations (as defined in WIOA Section 166(b) (29 USC 3221(b));
- Institutions of Higher Education (e.g., Community Colleges, Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) including but not limited to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs));
- Industry groups and associations;
- State Education Agencies (SEAs) or Local Education Agencies (LEAs);
- Labor unions and joint labor-management partnerships;
- Workforce and apprenticeship intermediaries: Organizations functioning as business-related entities/workforce intermediaries for the express purpose of serving the needs of businesses, individual businesses, or consortia of businesses;
- Community-based organizations: Organizations that are representative of a community or significant segments of a community and that provide education, career technical education or rehabilitation, job training, or internship services and programs and includes neighborhood groups and organizations, community action agencies, community development corporations; and
- Consortia: A consortium of organizations that is led by an eligible entity whose principal function(s) is consistent with the capabilities associated with either one or more of the above-listed organizations. A consortium is a group made up of two or more organizations, companies, or governments that work together to achieve a common objective.

Category 2: Creation of Education System-aligned Pre-apprenticeship Programs and RAPs:

- Cities;
- Municipalities;
- Workforce Development System Entities - Organizations involved in administering the workforce development system established under WIOA (29 U.S.C. 3151), which are limited to State Workforce Development Boards, Local Workforce Development Boards, and Indian Tribe and Tribal Organizations and Native Hawaiian Organizations (as defined in WIOA Section 166(b) (29 USC 3221(b));
- Institutions of Higher Education (e.g., Community Colleges, MSIs (including but not limited to HBCUs, HSIs, TCUs, and AANAPISIs));
- Perkins Eligible Agencies, Entities, or Recipients;
- State Education Agencies (SEAs) or Local Education Agencies (LEAs);
- Industry groups and associations;
- Labor unions and joint labor-management partnerships;
- Workforce and apprenticeship intermediaries: Organizations functioning as business-related entities/workforce intermediaries for the express purpose of serving the needs of businesses, individual businesses, or consortia of businesses;
- Community-based organizations: Organizations that are representative of a community or significant segments of a community and that provide education, career technical education or rehabilitation, job training, or internship services and programs and includes neighborhood groups and organizations, community action agencies, community development corporations; and
- Consortia: A consortium of organizations that is led by an eligible entity whose principal function(s) is consistent with the capabilities associated with either one or more of the above-listed organizations. A consortium is a group made up of two or more organizations, companies, or governments that work together to achieve a common objective.

Category 3: Registered Apprenticeship Hubs:

Applications for funding under this category must demonstrate regional stakeholder expertise or industry/sector expertise depending upon the applicant’s state hub focus area.

Local/regional or Statewide-focused Registered Apprenticeship Hubs

- Cities;
- Municipalities;
- Workforce Development System Entities – Organizations involved in administering the workforce development system established under WIOA (29 U.S.C. 3151), which are limited to State Workforce Development Boards, Local Workforce Development Boards, and Indian Tribe and Tribal Organizations and Native Hawaiian Organization (as defined in WIOA Section 166(b) (29 USC 3221(b));
- Institutions of Higher Education (e.g., community colleges, MSIs (including but not limited to HBCUs, HSIs, TCUs, and AANAPISIs), school districts);
- Industry groups and associations;

- Labor unions and joint labor-management partnerships;
- Workforce and apprenticeship intermediaries: Organizations functioning as business-related entities/workforce intermediaries for the express purpose of serving the needs of businesses, individual businesses, or consortia of businesses;
- Community-based organizations: Organizations that are representative of a community or significant segments of a community and which provides education, career technical education or rehabilitation, job training, or internship services and programs and includes neighborhood groups and organizations, community action agencies, community development corporations; and
- Consortia: A consortium of organizations that is led by an eligible entity whose principal function(s) is consistent with the capabilities associated with either one or more of the above-listed organizations. A consortium is a group made up of two or more organizations, companies, or governments that work together to achieve a common objective.

National Industry or Sector-led Hubs

- Industry groups and associations;
- Labor unions and joint labor-management partnerships;
- Consortia: A consortium of organizations that is led by an eligible entity whose principal function(s) is consistent with the capabilities associated with either one or more of the above-listed organizations. A consortium is a group made up of two or more organizations, companies, or governments that work together to achieve a common objective.

2) Are entities funded under the prior round of ABA grants eligible to apply for an ABA2 grant?

No. Lead entities funded under the ABA grant program (announced via FOA-ETA-22-06) are not eligible to apply for ABA2 funding.

3) Are labor organizations eligible to apply as lead applicants under this FOA?

Yes. Labor unions and joint labor-management partnerships are eligible lead applicants for all three grant categories.

4) Are labor organizations eligible to be partners under this FOA?

Yes. Eligible lead applicants are encouraged to partner with a broad range of organizations. As appropriate, the Department encourages applicants to partner with labor organizations (labor unions or joint-labor management partnerships).

AWARD INFORMATION

5) What grant category can applicants apply for under the ABA2 FOA?

The ABA grant program will fund grants in three categories. Applicants have the opportunity to apply for funding across three grant categories:

- Category 1: Ensuring Equitable RAP Pathways and Partnerships Through Pre-

apprenticeship Leading to RAP Enrollment: Grantees will establish and develop public-private partnerships with pre-apprenticeship programs leading to RAP enrollment during the grant period of performance. This activity will advance Registered Apprenticeship initiatives designed to increase diversity and equity in Registered Apprenticeship for underrepresented populations and undeserved communities, including a focus on quality pre-apprenticeships. Applicants are encouraged to use industry-wide pre-apprenticeship program models that feed into a broad range of RAPs.

- Category 2: Creation of Education System-aligned Pre-apprenticeship Programs and RAPs: Grantees will establish and expand partnerships that commit to creating and expanding education system-aligned pre-apprenticeship programs that lead to RAPs during the grant period of performance and/or education system-aligned RAPs that serve youth and adult learners through coordination and direct tie with the education system (CTE, community colleges, post-secondary education, institutions of higher education, state education systems), industry, workforce intermediaries, labor organizations, youth-serving and community-based organizations, and other stakeholders.
- Category 3: Registered Apprenticeship Hubs: Grantees will establish industry or sector-led multi-partner networks capable of serving as multi-employer RAP sponsors and/or intermediary partnerships with the primary focus of supporting industry's needs for creating and expanding RAPs in in-demand sectors and occupations. Registered Apprenticeship Hubs will develop innovative and scalable Registered Apprenticeship strategies at a local, regional, state, or national scale that incorporate worker-centered sector strategies driven by strong and diverse partnerships of public and private sector entities to promote systems change and empower workers through equity, skills, and innovation. Types of Registered Apprenticeship Hubs to be funded under this category include:
 1. Local/regional or Statewide-focused Registered Apprenticeship Hubs: Serve as Registered Apprenticeship intermediaries to convene local stakeholders with the ultimate goal of developing and launching RAPs. These organizations serve as intermediaries with RAP expertise working across local communities and/or multiple regions in a multi-employer sponsor and/or technical assistance (TA) capacity.
 2. National Industry- or Sector-Focused Network Hubs: Serve as Registered Apprenticeship intermediaries with RAP expertise to convene stakeholders with the ultimate goal of developing and launching RAPs. These organizations serve as industry and/or sector experts working nationally and/or within multiple regions in a multi-employer sponsor and/or TA capacity.

6) Can applicants apply for more than one ABA2 grant category?

Applicants may apply for more than one grant category but must provide a separate application for each. Applicants must identify only one grant category for the project on their Abstract. Applications including multiple grant categories within the same application package will be found non-responsive and will not receive further consideration. If we receive multiple applications from the same organization for the same grant category, we will consider only the most recently received application that met the deadline for the FOA. If the most recent

application is disqualified for any reason, we will not replace it with an earlier application.

7) What is the amount of grant funding an applicant may apply for under this FOA?

We expect availability of approximately \$95,000,000 to fund approximately 12-25 grants. You may apply for a ceiling amount of:

- Ensuring Equitable RAP Pathways and Partnerships Through Pre-apprenticeship Leading to RAP Enrollment: up to \$4 million;
- Creation of Education System-aligned Pre-apprenticeship Programs and RAPs: up to \$4 million;
- Registered Apprenticeship Hubs:
 - up to \$6 million for projects with a local/regional or statewide geographic scope; and
 - up to \$8 million for projects with a national geographic scope.

8) When are applications due?

The closing date for receipt of applications under this Announcement is April 15, 2024. You must submit your application electronically on <https://www.grants.gov> no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the closing date.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their application before the closing date to minimize the risk of late receipt. We will not review applications received after 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the closing date. We will not accept applications sent by hard-copy, e-mail, telegram, or facsimile (FAX).

9) How long is the grant period of performance?

The period of performance is 48 months with an anticipated start date of July 1, 2024. This performance period includes all necessary implementation and start-up activities.

ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES

10) What are the geographic scope applicants can propose?

Applicants must identify the geographic scope of the proposed project. Applicants may choose one of the following geographic scopes: local/regional, statewide, or national scope. The geographic scope is the physical service area in which awarded applicants will serve participants and/or provide services.

Categories 1 and 2:

1. Local/regional means serving a part of one state or a contiguous area that includes multiple sites that may cross more than one state.
2. Statewide means serving an entire state or multiple non-contiguous sites within one state.
3. National means serving multiple states in multiple locations across the country. The

service area does not need to be contiguous.

Category 3: Registered Apprenticeship Hubs

1. Local/regional or Statewide-focused Registered Apprenticeship Hubs:
 - a. Local/regional means serving a part of one state or a contiguous area that includes multiple sites that may cross more than one state.
 - b. Statewide means serving an entire state or multiple non-contiguous sites within one state.
2. National Industry or Sector-led Hubs:
 - a. National means serving multiple states in multiple locations across the country. The service area does not need to be contiguous.

11) What are required grant activities?

Applicants must propose projects that will execute all of the following activities to launch and/or expand RAPs and/or pre-apprenticeship programs that lead to RAP enrollment during the grant period of performance through:

- **Industry Engagement and Support:** Grantees must engage employers and other industry organizations to glean insights into industry and workforce needs; become partners in design, implementation, and investment of resources; and develop longer-term relationships and efforts to support ongoing employer engagement.
- **Promotion and Outreach Activities:** Grantees must engage in efforts to promote and conduct outreach to industry partners and stakeholders regarding the value and benefits of Registered Apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs that lead to RAP enrollment, as appropriate.
- **Partnership Building:** Grantees must identify and collaborate with a broad range of partners to promote RAPs and pre-apprenticeship programs. Grantees are expected to actively support the development and introduction of new Registered Apprenticeship partners, including employers, industry associations, labor unions, Registered Apprenticeship Intermediaries, and workforce and educational entities. Grantees are expected to directly and indirectly support the expansion of national, regional, and local RAP and/or pre-apprenticeship models.
- **Engaging Underrepresented Populations and Underserved Communities:** Grantees must offer a wide range of services such as supportive services and have policies and procedures that enable them to effectively serve underrepresented populations and underserved communities. This includes proposing projects to meet Utilization Goals for Individuals with Disabilities under 29 C.F.R. 30.7. As noted in 30.7(a), “The Administrator of OA has established a utilization goal of 7 percent for employment of qualified individuals with disabilities as apprentices for each major occupation group within which the sponsor has an apprenticeship program” ([eCFR ::29 CFR Part 30 – Equal Employment Opportunity in Apprenticeship](#)).
- **Leveraging Resources:** Grantees must leverage local, state, federal, private sector, and other resources to increase the impacts of grant funding. Leveraged funds must be described in the Budget Narrative as described in Section IV.B.2. Project Budget.
- **Data-informed Decision-Making:** Grantees must use labor market information, industry

and occupational trends, assessment data, and other information to guide investment, programmatic, and other key decisions regarding grant planning, implementation, and system capacity. All grantees are required to collect data on the required program elements for tracking and reporting performance outcomes of enrolled apprentices.

- **Policy and System Alignment:** Grantees must align and connect with policies and initiatives across workforce development, economic development, education, and other systems to improve grant outcomes and create longer-term conditions for success.

In carrying out the above activities, applicants may apply to one or more of the ABA2 grant categories based on eligibility of the applicant. For more information, please see Section III.A. Eligible Applicants and Section III.C.2. Number of Applications Applicants May Submit.

12) Can applicants propose projects that include pre-apprenticeships that do not lead to enrollment in RAPs?

No. Pre-apprenticeship programs funded through this grant must directly lead to enrollment in RAPs during the grant period of performance. Pre-apprenticeship programs funded under this grant should ensure that the skills and competencies being developed align with industry needs. It is allowable and encouraged for pre-apprenticeship completers to receive grant-funded services in a RAP.

MISC.

13) Will there be a prospective applicant webcast for the ABA2 FOA?

Yes. On March 8 the Department published an ABA2 FOA prospective applicant webcast on WorkforceGPS at: [WorkforceGPS - Prospective Applicant Session: Apprenticeship Building America Round 2 Webcast](#) This is a pre-recorded event so that prospective applicants can view at any time. A transcript is available.

14) Who can I contact for further questions about the ABA2 FOA?

For further information about this FOA, please contact Daniela Petchik, Grants Management Specialist, Office of Grants Management at ABA2_FOA-ETA-24-04@dol.gov. Applicants should e-mail all technical questions to ABA2_FOA-ETA-24-04@dol.gov and must specifically reference FOA-ETA-24-04, and along with question(s), include a contact name, and phone number. This Announcement is available on the ETA website at <https://www.doleta.gov/grants> and at <https://www.grants.gov>.