Prospective Applicant Webinar:

Apprenticeship Building America (ABA) Grant Program

Funding Opportunity Announcement

FOA-ETA-22-06

Webcast Transcript

Slide 1:

Marcia Hampton: Prospective Applicant Webinar: Apprenticeship Building America (ABA) Grant Program Funding Opportunity Announcement FOA-ETA-22-06.

Slide 2:

Marcia: Hello, and welcome to the Apprenticeship Building America's Prospective Applicant Webinar.   Today, you'll be hearing from me, Marcia Hampton, the Grants Team Lead, as well as Jessica Diep and Kyle Maguire, program analysts for the Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship.

Slide 3:

Marcia: You'll also hear from two representatives of ETA's Office of Grants Management: Brinda Ruggles is the Grants Officer for the ABA grants and Denise Roach is the Lead Grants Management Specialist for this Funding Opportunity.

While the FOA is open, all questions about this grant must be directed to Denise Roach, for whom contact information can be found in Section VII. Agency Contacts of the FOA, and later in these slides.

Slide 4:

Marcia: Here are three tips to maximize your time on this presentation. One, Follow along with your own copy of the FOA. Two, know where to find the Frequently Asked Questions or (FAQ) website. That website is: https:// www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/grants. Three, find this funding opportunity announcement at https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/grants and at https://www.grants.gov,

Slide 5:

Marcia: There are 10 content sections within the Apprenticeship Building America (or ABA) funding opportunity. We will not be covering all of them today. Instead, this webcast will focus on 6 key areas that we want prospective applicants to be aware of. Please ensure you read the entire funding opportunity announcement in order to understand all requirements and components for your grant proposal submission.

Kyle will describe the Funding Opportunity Announcement in the next section.

Slide 6:

Kyle Maguire: Thank you Marcy. In this section we'll cover Program purpose, program authority, grant categories, and cross-cutting principles.

Slide 7:

Kyle: This information may be found in Section I.A. Program Purpose. The purpose of Apprenticeship Building America is to: Support President Biden's intention for a coordinated, national investment strategy that aims to strengthen, expand and modernize the registered apprenticeship system, while promoting equity and access.

Build on previous registered apprenticeship expansion efforts; this effort will be critical in supporting the new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Contribute to the continuing expansion of the number of registered apprenticeship programs (or RAPs), apprentices, and the diversification of industries. It will also focus heavily on increasing access to, and the completion of, registered apprenticeship programs for underrepresented populations and underserved communities.

ABA will also accelerate the Administration's goals and priorities for an economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Slide 8:

Kyle: To build, expand, and sustain RAPs requires significant industry engagement and broad public-private partnerships under normal circumstances. During a crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic hardships, RAPs offer an important solution to these challenges: RAPs address talent questions, including how to attract and retain workers while employers seek to diversify their workforce. RAPs and pre-apprenticeships leading to registered apprenticeships provide a workforce development solution to bridge opportunity gaps, support and diversify talent pipelines, advocate for RAPs in emerging industries, and develop skilled and talented workforces.

Slide 9:

Kyle: Allowable activities are activities designated as an allowable cost to be charged against the grant. Within this FOA, allowable activities vary by grant category, but applicants of all categories must propose projects that comprise all of the following activities: Launch and/or Expand RAPs, increase

RAP opportunities for youth, and/or launch or increase pre-apprenticeship programs that lead to RAP enrollment.

Industry Engagement and Support: Grantees must engage employers and other industry organizations to demonstrate 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-apprenticeships 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 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.

Slide 10:

Kyle: Continuing from the previous slide, engaging Underrepresented Populations and Underserved Communities: Grantees must have a wide range of services, policies and procedures that enable them to effectively serve underrepresented populations and underserved communities specifically.

Leveraging Resources: Grantees must leverage local, state, federal, and private sector 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.

Next, Jessica will explain the allowable activities for each grant category of the ABA FOA.

Slide 11:

Jessica Diep: Thank you, Kyle. There are 4 grant categories. The first is State Apprenticeship System Building and Modernization. For this grant category, grantees will coordinate RAP expansion and system building efforts at a state level across a wide array of industry sectors with employers, labor organizations, educational institutions, industry groups, joint labor-management partnerships, workforce and apprenticeship intermediaries, community-based organizations, and other non-profit and public sector partners.

Grantees will develop strategies to improve coordination efforts around system alignment, data quality and use, program expansion into target industries, and goals and strategies to ensure equity in RAPs, and also facilitate other data sharing, system change, and governance requirements to comply with the law and ensure a strong and modernized Registered Apprenticeship system.

State is defined as any of the 50 states of the Unites States, as well as the District of Columbia or the following Territories or Possessions of the United States: Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. States may apply for grants up to $4 million.

Slide 12:

Jessica: Within this category, Category 2, Expansion of RAP Opportunities for Youth, Grantees will establish and expand partnerships that commit to expanding RAPs and/or pre-apprenticeship programs that lead to RAP enrollment for youth through coordination with industry, workforce intermediaries, labor organizations, K-12 districts, community colleges, youth-serving and community-based organizations, and other stakeholders.

Youth are defined as young people ranging from age 16 to 24 at the time of enrollment. Applicants may serve a wide range of individuals, such as high school, opportunity youth (sometimes referred to as out-of-school youth), youth who are employed or unemployed, justice-involved youth, youth from underrepresented populations, such as people of color, women, and people with disabilities, and other youth with barriers to employment, including foster youth, parenting youth, and housing insecure youth. Under this category, applicants may apply for a grant up to $5 million.

Slide 13:

Jessica: Within category 3, Ensuring Equitable RAP Pathways Through Pre-apprenticeship Leading to RAP Enrollment and Equity Partnerships, grantees will establish and develop equity-centered public-private partnerships with pre-apprenticeships leading to RAP enrollment that aim to increase diversity and equity in apprenticeship for underrepresented populations

and underserved communities. Appendix A has a list of Key Terms. Please refer to Appendix A for a definition on "Equity Partnerships."

Applicants will use pre-apprenticeship programs that lead to registered apprenticeship program enrollment as a workforce development solution to bridge opportunity gaps, support the development and diversification of talent pipelines, and develop a diverse and skilled workforce that can meet industry demands. Under this category, applicants can apply for grants up to $3 million. Pre-apprenticeship programs leading to registered apprenticeship program enrollment funded and developed under the ABA must align with the requirements outlined under Program Design/Allowable Activities, Section B., Quality Framework for Pre-Apprenticeship Programs. This means that pre-apprenticeship programs must include the following five elements to be considered quality pre-apprenticeship programs: they must be designed in collaboration with a registered apprenticeship program sponsor; they must provide meaningful hands-on training that does not displace paid employees; they must facilitate entry into a registered apprenticeship program or provide an articulation agreement that allows an individual to earn advanced credit/placement for skills and competencies already acquired; the partnerships must be sustainable and collaboratively promote the use of registered apprenticeship programs as a preferred means for industry to develop a skilled workforce and to create opportunities and pathways leading to registered apprenticeship program enrollments for individuals; and participants must have access to appropriate supportive services during the program.

Slide 14:

Jessica: Within Category 4, grantees will establish a Registered Apprenticeship Hub by forming a multi-partner network capable of serving as a RAP sponsor or intermediary with the primary focus of supporting industry's needs for creating and expanding RAPs in new and emerging sectors and occupations.

Hubs can be led by a variety of organizations and are encouraged to include additional areas of focus (for example, youth, equity, career pathways leading to RAP enrollment) beyond the primary focus of expansion of Registered Apprenticeship in the target industry or industries.

Applicants can apply for 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.

Slide 15:

Jessica: Across all four grant categories, the ABA grants will incorporate the following five cross-cutting principles into their projects to support the
Administration's goal of ensuring quality jobs for all workers:

Equity - Focus on expanding diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility (DEIA) of RAPs into new and traditional industries to improve outcomes for workers from underrepresented populations and underserved communities

Job Quality - Focus on promoting RAPs as a key strategy to move workers into good jobs across all industries – especially critical, in-demand industries and occupations defined by the Administration – and promoting the hallmarks of RAPs (e.g., progressive wage increases), job quality (i.e., healthy, safe, and discrimination- and harassment-free workplace; benefits such as healthcare; opportunities for workers to exercise their legal right to organize and form or join a union; and more) and adaptable approaches to train workers.

Support for High-Quality, Sustainable Program - Focus on ensuring that all RAPs have the features of high-quality apprenticeships, such as progressive wage increase and national industry-recognized credential, and that those efforts support a broader workforce development agenda to support a sustainable apprenticeship system on a national scale.

Slide 16:

Jessica: Evidence-based Approaches – Incorporate strategies to improve the efficient and effective use of evidence- and research-based approaches to support workforce development initiatives involving RAPs.

New Opportunities for Innovation, Engagement, and Ease of Access - Focus on innovative strategies that support the expansion and modernization of RAPs, which may include, but are not limited to: engaging with new and underrepresented organizations in the apprenticeship system (such as Tribal organizations, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), small businesses, minority professional and trade organizations, minority college student organizations, minority alumni organizations, minority fraternities and Greek organizations, minority Chambers of Commerce, minority veterans organizations, faith-based organizations, organizations serving people with disabilities, etc.); developing RAPs in emerging industries; creating access to RAP opportunities for underrepresented populations and underserved communities; creating innovative diversity outreach strategies that are linguistically and culturally competent; developing distance learning approaches; developing innovative program delivery models including the integration of technology; and leveraging technology to provide technical assistance, increase ease of access, remove employment and training barriers, and improve system alignment.

Marcy will now cover Award Information.

Slide 17:

Marcia: Thank you, Jessica.

Slide 18:

Marcia: The Employment and Training Administration (ETA), U.S. Department of Labor announces the availability of approximately $113,000,000 in grant funds authorized by the National Apprenticeship Act for the Apprenticeship Building America (ABA) grant program.

Of the $113,000,000 available, the Department intends to fund, in aggregate across all grant categories, up to $50,000,000 for projects primarily focused on equity partnerships and pre-apprenticeship activities. The Department plans on awarding a range of 20-30 grants.

The Period of Performance for these grants will be 48 months, with an anticipated start date of 7/1/2022.

Slide 19:

Marcia: As stated on the previous slide, this funding opportunity announcement includes a set-aside of up to $50 million for projects focused on equity and pre-apprenticeship activities. In order to be considered for these funds, an applicant must include: a purpose statement describing the equity partnerships and/or pre-apprenticeship efforts in the community(ies) you intend to outreach; your success benchmarks and measures; a description of the specific population(s) you intend to impact; the name of the lead organization and the partnerships you will form; the baseline number of Registered Apprentices within the identified area(s); and a description of how your partnership(s) will increase equity in Registered Apprenticeship and/or pre-apprenticeships leading to RAPs.

If applying for the set-aside, you must indicate so in the Abstract (Appendix D) and your Project Narrative, clearly addressing the guidelines above. Project funded under this set-aside may come from any of the four grant categories described in this FOA.

 Next, Kyle will cover Eligibility Information.

Slide 20:

Kyle: Thank you, Marcy. In this section we will cover Eligible applicants, cost sharing or matching, and other information

Slide 21:

Kyle: Category 1: Required Partners. For states with federally-recognized State Apprenticeship Agencies (SAA), the SAA must be included as a partner (if not identified as the grant recipient). Federally recognized SAAs are defined as those SAAs that have formal, written notice from the OA Administrator affirming the state's regulatory compliance with 29 CFR Parts 29 and 30. Each state is limited to one individual application for consideration under this opportunity.

Optional Partners. The list of optional partners is quite extensive. Please refer to the FOA for a complete list of optional partners for this grant category and all other grant categories

Slide 22:

Kyle: Category 2: Required Partners. Applicants are required to identify required partners in their abstract which shall include at a minimum, all of the following: A minimum of two employer sponsors or two intermediary sponsors, or an industry/trade associations that represent at least two employers sponsors; Education or Training Providers (e.g., K-12 school districts, CTE providers, community colleges, etc.); For projects with a local or state-wide geographic scope, the State Apprenticeship Agency (for states with a federally recognized SAA); and An entity carrying out activities under WIOA, such as a local workforce development board (as described above in Section III.A.2).

Optional Partners. As we said in the previous slide, please refer to the FOA for a complete list of optional partners for this grant category and all other grant categories.

Slide 23:

Kyle: Category 3: Required Partners. Applicants are required to identify required partners in their abstract and shall include, at a minimum, all of the following: Applicants are required to name a minimum of two employer or two intermediary sponsors, or an industry/trade associations that represents at least two employers in their abstract; For programs with a local or state-wide geographic scope, the State Apprenticeship Agency (for states with a federally recognized SAA); A minimum of one equity-focused CBO or Minority Serving Institution (MSI) or Minority Serving Institutions' Organization or Association: MSIs are defined as HBCUs, HSIs, Tribal Colleges, and institutions with a primary focus on serving persons with disabilities; and An entity carrying out activities under WIOA, such as a local workforce development board (as described above in Section III.A.2).

Optional Partners. Please refer to the FOA for a complete list of optional partners for this grant category and all other grant categories.

Slide 24:

Kyle: Category 4 Required Partners. Applicants are required to identify required partners in their abstract and shall include at least the following: Applicants are required to name a minimum of two employer or two intermediary sponsors, joint or non-joint employer groups, or industry/trade associations that represents at least two employers in their abstract.

And at least one required partner from the list below: Post-Secondary Education Institutions: Institutions accredited in accordance with the guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Education; Workforce Associations: Organizations that connect workforce development professionals and advocates for state and local workforce programs, including the support of state and local workforce development and/or apprenticeship agencies and boards.

Optional Partners. Again, please refer to the FOA for a complete list of optional partners for this grant category and all other grant categories,

Next, I'll turn it over to Jessica.

Slide 25:

Jessica: Thanks, Kyle. Cost sharing or matching funds are not required for this program. Please note that any other resources contributed to the project are considered leveraged resources and do not constitute cost sharing or matching funds. More information on leveraged resources may be found in Section IV.B.2 of the FOA. Applications that include any form of cost sharing or match will not receive additional consideration under the review. Cost sharing or match is not one of the application screening criteria.

Slide 26:

Jessica: Application Screening Criteria; Use the checklist in the FOA as a guide when preparing your application package. Number of Applications Applicant May Submit; Applicants may apply for more than one grant category, but must provide a separate application for each.

To be eligible, individuals served must be at least 16 years of age who are not already enrolled in a RAP at the time of initial grant service. Among the individuals eligible to receive services, the Department is particularly interested in the following groups:

Underrepresented populations: This term may include women, people of color, and persons with disabilities, as established in 29 CFR Part 30, where that population's participation in RAPs is less than would be reasonably expected given the availability of such individuals for apprenticeship in the relevant industry, occupation, or recruitment area.

Underserved communities: Veterans, formerly incarcerated individuals, and youth. Within this population of youth, applicants may serve a wide range of individuals, such as high school and opportunity youth, youth who are employed or unemployed, justice-involved youth, underrepresented populations (i.e., people of color, women, persons with disabilities), and other youth with barriers to employment including foster youth, parenting youth, and housing insecure youth.

Unemployed workers: An unemployed worker is an individual who is without a job, is seeking employment, and is available to work.

Underemployed workers: This term refers to individuals who are not currently connected to a full-time job commensurate with the individual's level of education, skills, or wage and/or salary earned previously, or who have obtained only episodic, short-term, or part-time employment. The RAPs must include components that will assist those who do not have particular educational prerequisites and/or experience.

I will turn it over now to Brinda Ruggles, Grant Officer for ABA grants. Brinda…

Slide 27:

Brinda Ruggles: Thank you Jessica. In the next few slides, I will go over the application and submission information.

Slide 28:

Brinda: You'll find the FOA on the links you see here on this slide. The FOA describes the details on how to register and apply for this funding opportunity through grants.gov and DOL.

Slide 29:

Brinda: Proposals submitted in response to this FOA must consist of four separate and distinct parts: the Standard Form (SF) 424, Application for Federal Assistance; Project Budget, which consists of the SF-424A and the Budget Narrative; Project Narrative; and attachments to the Project Narrative.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the funding amount requested is consistent across all parts and sub-parts of the application.

Slide 30:

Brinda: Applicants must include the items listed here. There is no exception to this requirement. The SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance, incorporates the Data Universal Numbering System (D-U-N-S) Number and System for Award Management (SAM) registration.

All applicants for Federal grant and funding opportunities must have a DUNS number and must supply their DUNS number on the SF-424. Applicants must register with the System for Award Management (SAM) before submitting an application.

Please note: A recipient must maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal award or an application under consideration. Grants.gov will reject applications if the applicant's registration in SAM is expired. Only applications that have been successfully submitted by the deadline and later successfully validated will be considered.

The Project Budget, consists of the SF-424A: Budget Information Form and Budget Narrative.

Each of these items are explained in more detail in the FOA, and all must be addressed in the application or it will be deemed non-responsive and your application will not be reviewed.

The Budget and Budget Justification do not count against the page limit requirements for the Project Narrative.

Slide 31:

Brinda: Applicants will most likely spend the majority of their time preparing the Project Narrative. This is where applicants demonstrate their capability to implement the grant project in accordance with the provisions of this solicitation. Applicants should provide a comprehensive framework and description of all aspects of the proposed project. It must be succinct, self-explanatory, and well organized so that reviewers can understand the proposed project. The guidelines for preparing the Project Narrative are found in Section IV.B.3 and it will be evaluated using the evaluation criteria identified in Section V.A, Criteria.

The Project Narrative is limited to 20 double-spaced single-sided 8.5 x 11 inch pages with Times New Roman 12-point text font and 1-inch margins. You must number the Project Narrative beginning with page number 1. Please note: Any materials beyond the specified page limit will not be reviewed or considered in the application review process.

Slide 32:

Brinda: In addition to the Project Narrative, applicants must submit the required and requested attachments.

All attachments must be clearly labeled as Attachments. Only those attachments listed in Section IV.B.4 of the FOA will be excluded from the page limit. As mentioned earlier, the Budget and Budget Justification do not count against the page limit requirements for the Project Narrative.

The required attachments include the Abstract, the Letter from the Governor or chief elected official if applicant is a state, and Letters of Commitment or MOUs.

The Letter from the Governor or chief elected official if applicant is a state, and the Letters of Commitment or MOUs must be submitted with the application package. Failure to include these attachments with the application package will cause your application to be screened out.

The Abstract is a required attachment. Omission of the abstract will not result in your application being disqualified; however, the lack of the required information in the Abstract could impact scoring.

Additional materials such as resumés or general letters of support must not be included. You must submit your application in one package because documents received separately will be tracked separately and will not be attached to the application for review.

Slide 33:

Brinda: The following attachments are requested. Their omission will not cause the application to be screened out. The omission of the attachment will, however, impact scoring unless otherwise noted.

Past Performance Documentation, Indirect Cost Agreement, and Financial System Risk Assessment Information.

See Section IV.B.4 for a complete description of each attachment.

I will now turn it over to Denise who will cover the Submission Date, Time, Process and Address, and Contacts.

Slide 34:

Denise Roach: 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).

Please reference FOA-ETA-22-06 in the application submissions See the FOA for details on how to register to apply through grants.gov and how to submit applications to DOL.

Applicants should e-mail all technical questions to Denise Roach at roach.denise@dol.gov and must specifically reference FOA-ETA-22-06, and along with question(s), include a contact name, and phone number.

Slide 35:

Denise: The application process can be complicated and time-consuming. Applicants are strongly advised to initiate the process as soon as possible and to plan for time to resolve technical problems.

Read through the registration process carefully before registering. It is the applicants' responsibility to ensure a timely submission. These steps may take as long as four weeks to complete, and this time should be factored into plans for timely electronic submission in order to avoid unexpected delays that could result in the rejection of an application.

Again, applicants should e-mail all technical questions to roach.denise@dol.gov and reference the FOA.

If applicants are experiencing difficulties with submissions, applicants need to call the Grants.gov Support Center, and also obtain a ticket number.

Slide 36:

Denise: I'd like to ask everyone to pause and review this slide carefully, as it's critically important to ensuring that your application receives full consideration in the competition.

Applications that do not meet all of the screening criteria will not move forward through the merit review process.

These application screening criteria are provided in the checklist found in Section III.C of the FOA, pages 23 and 24. Note that this checklist is an aid for applicants and should not be included in the application package. We urge you to use this checklist to ensure that your application contains all required items. Please review the list carefully and ensure that you provide the correct information and meet all of the requirements.

This ends my portion of the presentation. I'll turn this now over to Marcy.

Slide 37:

Marcia: Thank you, Denise

Slide 38:

Marcia: We have instituted procedures for assessing the technical merit of applications to provide for an objective review of applications and to assist you in understanding the standards against which your application will be judged. The evaluation criteria are based on the information required in the application as described in Sections IV.B.2. (Project Budget) and IV.B.3. (Project Narrative). Reviewers will award points based on the evaluation criteria described below.

Section IV.B.3 (Project Narrative) of this FOA has several "section headers" (e.g. IV.B.3.a), Statement of Need). Each of these "section headers" of the Project Narrative may include one or more "criterion," and each "criterion" includes one or more "rating factors," which provide detailed specifications for the content and quality of the response to that criterion. Each of the rating factors have specific point values assigned. These point values are the number of points possible for the application to earn for the rating factor.

Slide 39:

Marcia: The Statement of Need is worth 10 points.

Points for this section will be based on the following sub-criteria: Reviewers will award up to 6 points based on the extent to which applicants demonstrate a clear and strong need for assistance in both qualitative and quantitative terms.

Identification of the industry(ies) and apprenticeable occupation(s) to be targeted through the grant is worth up to 4 points The Department is particularly interested in expanding RAP and pre-apprenticeship leading to a RAP enrollment in the following industries: clean energy, public service, healthcare, childcare, technology, cybersecurity, manufacturing, and transportation and other occupations and industries in the critical supply chain.

Applicants should review Section IV.B.3, Project Narrative of the FOA for instructions and a description of the required information for each of the sub-criteria listed on this slide.

Slide 40:

Marcia: There are different outcomes and outputs for grant categories 1, 2 and 3, that is for State Apprenticeship System Building and Modernization; Expansion of RAP Opportunities for Youth; and Ensuring Equitable RAP Pathways Through Pre-apprenticeship Leading to RAP Enrollment and Equity Partnerships. And Grant Category 4, Registered Apprenticeship Hubs. The main difference is that Grant Categories 1-3 have participant targets - Applicants must propose to serve the maximum feasible number of participants based on the size of the award requested and proposed geographic scope. Please see Section IV.B.3.b. for more information. (Up to 10 points)

Applicants applying under all ABA grant categories must address the required elements for the designated ABA grant categories outlined in section IV.B.3.b.(2). For each category, ABA applicants must address the cross-cutting principles of 1) equity, 2) job quality, 3) support for high quality, scalable, and sustainable programs, 4) evidence-based approaches, and 5) new opportunities for innovation, engagement, and ease of access. Failure to address these elements in the Logic Model will result in zero points. (10 points)

Slide 41:

Marcia: Applicants can receive up to 10 points for Logic Model Elements. Scoring under Logic Model Elements is based on how the proposed project design will be implemented. This includes how the applicants will ensure the project is designed to meet the key ABA grant program goals. See Appendix C for the Suggested Logic Model Template. See Section IV.B.3.c. for more details on the Logic Model Elements.

Applicants may receive up to 18 points for their Project Work Plan. Scoring under this criterion is based on the application identifying and including clear and complete project goals, milestones, key activities, and key partners of the proposed apprenticeship program as described in the narrative in the work plan attachment as outlined in Appendix F.

Slide 42:

Marcia: Applicants must include a detailed description demonstrating the lead applicant's capacity to effectively manage each component of the program, including a project management plan and a communications plan for efficient and effective management of the project with all partners and staff and demonstrating its capacity to establish effective procurement processes, systems, and procedures and those of any partners who will be providing any services or conducting any activities under the grant (where applicable). This must include a detailed organizational chart that identifies the lead applicant, Registered Apprenticeship partnership, and other proposed partners.

The staffing plan must describe the qualifications and experience of all executive and administrative staff, as well as other personnel such as board members, advisors, and consultants, to fulfill the needs and requirements of the proposed project.

Slide 43:

Marcia: Applicants will receive points based on past performance data. Applicants must use the information in this section to provide the applicable past performance information, including Full description of the lead applicant's prior experience and performance in the

development of RAPs and/or pre-apprenticeship that lead to a RAP enrollment, partners with experience in RAPs, demonstrated ability to integrate and work with existing workforce system and partners .

The Suggested Chart of Past Performance can be found in Appendix E. Please read carefully this section and the suggested templates because completing and addressing this section accurately is dependent on the grant category and the level of experience of completing an Office of Apprenticeship, ETA, non-eta, non-federal grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or assistance agreement.

Slide 44:

Marcia: Applicants should review Section IV.B.2, Project Budget of the FOA for instructions and a description of the required information for the Budget Narrative. Applicants should also review Section IV.B.3.f. for the scoring criteria in this section.

Kyle will cover the evaluation Rating Criteria and Selection Process.

Slide 45:

Kyle: Thank you, Marcy. The Evaluation Rating Criteria can be found in Section V.A. In order to receive the maximum points for each rating factor, applicants must provide a response to the requirement that fully describes the proposed program design and demonstrates the quality of approach, rather than simply re-stating a commitment to perform prescribed activities. In other words, applicants must describe why their proposal is the best strategy and how they will implement it, rather than that the strategy contains elements that conform to the requirements of this FOA.

Section IV.B.3, Project Narrative, provides a detailed explanation of the information an application must include (e.g., a comprehensive work plan for the whole period of performance with feasible and realistic dates). Reviewers will rate each "rating factor" based on how fully and convincingly the applicant responds. For each "rating factor" under each "criterion," panelists will determine whether the applicant thoroughly meets, partially meets, or fails to meet the "rating factor," unless otherwise noted in Section IV.B.3, based on the definitions.

Slide 46:

Kyle: The review and selection process is conducted after the closing date for the FOA. A technical review panel will carefully evaluate applications against the selection criteria. These criteria are based on the policy goals, priorities, and emphases set forth in this FOA. Up to 100

points may be awarded to an applicant, depending on the quality of the responses to the required information described in the FOA.

The final scores (which may include the mathematical normalization of review panels) will serve as the primary basis for selection of applications for funding. The Grant Officer reserves the right to make selections based solely on the final scores or to take into consideration other relevant factors when applicable. Such factors may include the geographic distribution of funds, distribution among grant categories, funding set-aside, and other relevant factors. The Grant Officer may consider any information that comes to their attention.

Next, we'll be covering the Appendices with Jessica.

Slide 47:

Jessica: Thanks, Kyle.

Slide 48:

Jessica: This is the last section of the FOA. The appendices have useful information and resources for applicants and they can be found at the end of the FOA.

Appendix A Key Definitions, Appendix B Resources To Help Employers with Workplace Inclusion, APPENDIX C SUGGESTED LOGIC MODEL TEMPLATE, APPENDIX D SUGGESTED ABSTRACT TEMPLATE, APPENDIX E SUGGESTED CHART OF PAST PERFORMANCE TEMPLATE WITH EXAMPLES, APPENDIX F SUGGESTED PROJECT WORK PLAN TEMPLATE, APPENDIX G Suggested Apprenticeship Building America (ABA) Performance Outcomes and Outputs Table, and APPENDIX H Registered Apprenticeship Key Evaluations.

There are a couple of appendices to note because there is more than one suggested template in the appendix: Appendix E: There are two templates for SUGGESTED CHART OF PAST PERFORMANCE TEMPLATE WITH EXAMPLES: one for those with previous grant or agreement and one for those that have never had a federally and/or non-federally funded assistance agreement.

Appendix G: Please note there are two suggested Performance Tables: one for applicants applying for Grant Categories 1-3 and one for Grant Category 4.

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Jessica: Lastly, For questions related to the 2022 Apprenticeship Building America Funding Opportunity Announcement, please contact: Denise Roach, Grants Management Specialist, roach.denise@dol.gov.

You may also find FAQs and the FOA Announcement at the provided websites.