

Arkansas SAEF Abstract

State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula (Base Award)	
Lead Applicant / Organization Name:	Arkansas Department of Commerce, Office of Skills Development (OSD)
Lead Applicant Entity Type:	State Agency
Lead Applicant City and State:	Little Rock, Arkansas
Project Title: Arkansas SAEF (Base Formula Funding)	
Funding Amount Requested: \$532,250	
<p>Total Number of apprentices enrolled in RAPs during the life of the grant:</p> <p>There will not be grant supported training participants associated with the Base Formula Funding project.</p> <p>The Arkansas SAEF Base Formula Funding project is focused on building the State’s capacity to support registered apprenticeship expansion activities across industry sectors with a focus on manufacturing and educational services. Arkansas SAEF will build on SAE 2020 grant successes aligning with overarching goals leading to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) National Apprenticeship System Building 2) System Alignment for Apprenticeship Expansion 3) Improving Data Sharing and Data Integrity 	
<p>Populations to be Served: Arkansas SAEF collaborative partnership is inclusive of the WIOA system, education partners, RAP intermediaries, and related workforce development initiatives to expand pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship opportunities for job seekers and career changers that include underemployed, unemployed, dislocated workers, high school students, underserved populations, and others.</p>	
<p>List the name of Required Partner (<i>for states with federally-recognized SAAs</i>): Arkansas is an OA state. The Office of Skills Development (OSD) houses the State Apprenticeship Office which coordinates apprenticeship expansion efforts at the State level.</p>	
<p>List the name(s) of Optional Partners, as applicable: The Arkansas SAEF partnership includes a collaborative ecosystem that has been developed working with the following entities:</p>	

<i>Insert name(s)</i> Arkansas Workforce Cabinet/Chief Workforce Officer	<i>Insert type of organization</i> Governor Sanders Executive Order on February 9, 2023 creating the Workforce Cabinet and the Chief Workforce Officer position.
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services (ADWS)	State agency, administrative entity for WIOA Title I and Title III.
<i>Insert name(s)</i> Arkansas State Workforce Board	<i>Insert type of organization</i> Governor appointed State Board
<i>Insert name(s)</i> Northeast Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area	<i>Insert type of organization</i> Regional WIOA system local workforce area
<i>Insert name(s)</i> Arkansas Department of Education	<i>Insert type of organization</i> State agency, administrative entity for K-12 education.
<i>Insert name(s)</i> Arkansas Department of Corrections	<i>Insert type of organization</i> State agency, provides public safety by carrying out the mandate of the courts.
<i>Insert name(s)</i> Arkansas Center for Data Sciences	<i>Insert type of organization</i> Non-profit organization, Industry Intermediary representing IT occupations across sectors, RA Sponsor
<i>Insert name(s)</i> Arkansas Division of Career and Technical Education	<i>Insert type of organization</i> State agency, administrative entity for Perkins Act
Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) of Arkansas	ABC is a national construction industry trade association with an Arkansas state chapter.
Arkansas Adult Education	State agency, provides adult learners with resources to improve their academic skills and attain the General Educational Development (GED) credential.
Arkansas Community Colleges	Non-profit organization, representing public two-year community colleges statewide.
Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce	Non-profit organization representing businesses statewide.
Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce	Non-profit organization representing businesses in the Northeast region of the State.

Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce	Non-profit organization representing businesses in the Northeast region of the State.
Trumann Area Chamber of Commerce	Non-profit organization representing businesses in the Northeast region of the State.
<p>Targeted Industry(ies) and/or Occupation(s): Targeted industries include Manufacturing and Educational Services. In the manufacturing sector, growth occupations include industrial maintenance, machinist (i.e., CNC, PLC, Tool and Die, Robotics), quality control technicians, production technicians, IT related occupations, etc. In the educational services sector, the K-12 Teacher RAP will be implemented working with ADE and partnering educational services cooperatives.</p>	
<p>Summary of program activities: Broadly defined, “middle skill” jobs are those that require more than a high school diploma but less than a bachelor’s degree. These “middle skill” jobs represent a significant percentage of in-demand jobs in the manufacturing sector. The apprenticeship model is a viable workforce development and career pathway solution, whether connecting with young adults and/or populations with barriers to employment through “certified” pre-apprenticeship opportunities (aligned with RA) for work-ready skill attainment or directly into a registered apprenticeship program. The Arkansas SAEF project will scale the adoption of the RAP model utilizing a proven RAP Sponsor/industry intermediary strategy to minimize administrative barriers for manufacturing employers to commit. The WIOA system will be leveraged to engage employers and integrate State certified pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship as an option to meet employer needs.</p> <p>The Arkansas SAEF project will also be used to develop certified pre-apprenticeship alignment with Career and Technical Education Secondary Career Centers as well as leverage the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce Be-Pro-Be-Proud Initiative to educate young adults for career opportunities. The Arkansas SAEF project will look for opportunities to partner with AEDC’s Future Fit initiative to integrate work-ready pre-apprenticeship training to align to RA pathways in the manufacturing sector.</p> <p>In the Educational Services sector, the Arkansas SAEF project will provide technical assistance resources to support the state’s grow your own teacher residency model for Teacher RAP opportunities for paraprofessionals and others interested in the teaching profession. The K-12 Teacher RAP provides an opportunity to work while meeting qualifications for teacher licensure.</p>	
<p>Subrecipient Roles: OSD is planning to work closely with the Northeast Local Workforce Development Area and the Arkansas Department of Education to support Goals 1 and 2 as outlined in the RA expansion work plan.</p>	
<p>List of credential(s): In the manufacturing sector, industry recognized credentials will be incorporated into RAPs based on participating employer needs. For educational services, Teacher RAP is a pathway to State teacher licensure as recognized by the Arkansas Department of Education.</p>	

Public Contact Information

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