

APPRENTICE TRAILBLAZER APPLICATION

Application Status: In-Progress

The Apprentice Trailblazer Initiative is designed to create a national network of diverse apprentices and apprenticeship graduates of all ages and backgrounds. It also gives them a platform to feature their stories, share their perspectives, highlight how Registered Apprenticeships increase opportunities for underserved populations, and bring awareness to other career seekers who may be interested in becoming apprentices.

A key goal for the first cohort of Apprentice Trailblazers is to focus on youth and create a national network of current youth apprentices (registered apprentices who are aged 16-24) who have been apprentices for at least 6 months and recent youth apprenticeship graduates (graduates) who have completed their Registered Apprenticeship program within the past 3 years. These youth Apprentice Trailblazers will serve as champions for Registered Apprenticeship by sharing their success stories and promoting Registered Apprenticeship through outreach to youth and others. The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship is interested in hearing from all apprentices/graduates, especially youth, regarding ideas and suggestions on how to continue to promote, expand, diversify, and strengthen Registered Apprenticeship based on their experience.

Serving as an Apprentice Trailblazer is a professional development opportunity. Apprentice Trailblazers will exercise valuable skills such as teamwork, leadership, and public speaking. They will also have the opportunity to network with stakeholders, engage with other apprentices/graduates and Apprenticeship Ambassadors, and cultivate relationships with mentors.

Criteria: In order to be an Apprentice Trailblazer in the first cohort focused on youth, an applicant must:

- Be a current youth apprentice (ages 16-24) in a Registered Apprenticeship program for at least 6 months or recent youth apprenticeship graduate within the past 3 years from the date the application is submitted;
- Be an apprentice/graduate from a Registered Apprenticeship program in good standing who has shown exemplary leadership, mentoring, teamwork, promotional activities, and/or has a transformative story as an apprentice;
 - Examples of exemplary **leadership** include but are not limited to starting a peer group to connect apprentices; using social media and other avenues to share their apprenticeship experience and promote Registered Apprenticeship; displaying leadership characteristics during their apprenticeship such as exercising critical thinking, strong decision making skills, and operating as a self-starter; and providing useful feedback on how to improve apprentice experiences such as ways to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility and also increase apprenticeship completion rates.
 - Examples of **mentoring** include but are not limited to serving as a peer mentor during their apprenticeship; serving as a mentor to incoming apprentices and/or prospective apprentices once becoming an apprenticeship graduate; and serving as a mentor to youth in their community with respect to career development.
 - Examples of **teamwork** include but are not limited to actively participating in a study group with other apprentices; successfully completing group assignments; and working cooperatively with peers, mentors, supervisors, and/or other colleagues to accomplish tasks.
 - Examples of **promotional activities** include but are not limited to engaging in outreach and developing new ways to promote, diversify, and expand Registered Apprenticeship.
 - Examples of a **transformative story** include but are not limited to apprentices that have overcome substantial obstacles while working as an apprentice or have succeeded in advancing their career or quality of life through a Registered Apprenticeship.
- Make year-long commitments to promote Registered Apprenticeship from the date of appointment as an Apprentice Trailblazer (see Menu of Outreach Activities on the next page);
- Be currently working in an industry/occupation similar to that in which they completed their Registered Apprenticeship program (if an apprentice graduate);
- Submit a complete application with responses to all required fields and include both the signature of the apprentice/graduate and signature from their Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor; and

- Have a parent/legal guardian provide written authorization for the apprentice/graduate to participate in the Initiative (if the apprentice/graduate is under 18 years of age and is not emancipated).

At any time, the apprentice/graduate, the apprentice/graduate's Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor, or the apprentice/graduate's parent/legal guardian (if the apprentice/graduate is under age 18 and not emancipated) may request to remove the apprentice/graduate's application from consideration or request the apprentice/graduate's withdrawal from participation in the Initiative.

Core Expectations for an Apprentice Trailblazer:

- Apprentice Trailblazers may have their name, title, and the name of their Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor publicized on the www.apprenticeship.gov website and included in press releases.
- Apprentice Trailblazers will attend a kick-off event, either virtually or in-person.
- Apprentice Trailblazers will attend quarterly virtual meetings with DOL Office of Apprenticeship.
- Apprentice Trailblazers will have opportunities to share their perspectives on Registered Apprenticeship and their program experiences.
- Apprentice Trailblazers are expected to complete at least one outreach activity from the Menu of Outreach Activities on the next page.
- Apprentice Trailblazers will work closely with their Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor, who will oversee their participation in the Apprentice Trailblazer Initiative and help coordinate completion of any selected outreach activities and these core expectations.
- Apprentice Trailblazers are expected to maintain professionalism, open communication, and transparency with their Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor and DOL Office of Apprenticeship with respect to their participation in this Initiative.

*** If selected as an Apprentice Trailblazer, I agree to meet these core expectations.**

- Yes
- No

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*** Apprentice/Graduate's Commitment to the Apprentice Trailblazer Initiative:**

Please review the menu below and select the outreach activities that you will commit to perform, if selected to serve as an Apprentice Trailblazer. Apprentice Trailblazers will serve a one-year term (12 months from the date of selection into the Initiative).

Menu of Outreach Activities for Apprentice Trailblazers:

- Serve as a speaker at DOL events or panels promoting Registered Apprenticeship
- Promote Registered Apprenticeship on social media

Please select the social media platforms you intend to use below and provide your username for those platforms.

- LinkedIn

LinkedIn Username

- Twitter

Twitter Username

- Facebook

Facebook Username

TikTok

TikTok Username

Youtube

Youtube Username

Instagram

Instagram Username

- Assist in creating a peer apprentice working group within your organization, community, or industry to promote Registered Apprenticeship
- Provide success stories and testimonials regarding Registered Apprenticeship
- Brainstorm ideas and provide feedback on strategies to help modernize, strengthen, diversify, and expand Registered Apprenticeship
- Educate potential apprentices and career seekers on the benefits of Registered Apprenticeship
- Help recruit additional Apprentice Trailblazers
- Join DOL Office of Apprenticeship Industry Groups and other activities in support of Registered Apprenticeship
- Provide your photograph and/or a video to display on DOL websites and promotional materials
- Other

* List Specifics

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Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor's Commitment to the Apprentice Trailblazer Initiative:

- The Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor will be expected to oversee their apprentice/graduate's participation in the Apprentice Trailblazer Initiative and help coordinate completion of the selected outreach activities and the core expectations previously described.
- The Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor will be invited to participate in meetings with DOL Office of Apprenticeship, either virtually or in-person, and may be invited to join Industry Groups and other Registered Apprenticeship events, where appropriate. (Please note that any travel to Apprentice Trailblazer-related events is voluntary. The Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor will be responsible for their own travel arrangements and costs as well as any travel arrangements and costs for their apprentice/graduates serving as Apprentice Trailblazers.)
- The Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor's name may be publicized on the www.apprenticeship.gov website and included in press releases. Success stories highlighting the apprentice/graduate and their apprenticeship experience may also be featured on www.apprenticeship.gov and shared with DOL leadership.
- DOL Office of Apprenticeship may invite the Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor to speak at events along with their apprentice/graduate, to share their Sponsor's perspective.

Registered Apprenticeship Program Information:

RAPIDS Number for Registered Apprenticeship Program:

* Name of Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor:

Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor Industry

Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor Address:

* Street:

* City:

* State:

* Zip/Postal Code:

Please provide contact information for the Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor's representative who will assist the apprentice/graduate throughout the Apprentice Trailblazer Initiative:

* Name (Sponsor Representative):

* Title (e.g. Director, Supervisor):

* Phone Number (Sponsor Representative):

* Email Address (Sponsor Representative):

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Apprentice Experience:

* Is the apprentice a current apprentice?

Yes

No

* Is the apprentice an apprenticeship graduate?

Yes

No

* Did the apprenticeship graduate complete their Registered Apprenticeship program within the past 3 years?

Yes

No

Please provide the month and year for the apprenticeship graduate's Registered Apprenticeship program completion date.

* Month

* Year

* Is the apprenticeship graduate currently employed in their apprenticeship industry?

Yes

No

* Does the apprenticeship graduate currently work for their Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor?

Yes

No

Name of Apprenticeship Graduate's Current Employer:

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Apprentice/Graduate Contact Information:

* Name of Apprentice/Graduate:

* Title (e.g. Mr., Mrs., Miss):

* Telephone Number:

* Email Address:

Address:

* Street:

* City:

* State:

* Zip/Postal Code:

* Is the apprentice/graduate currently age 16-24?

- Yes
 No

* Did the apprentice/graduate participate in their Registered Apprenticeship program for some duration as a youth, at age 16-24?

- Yes
 No

* Is the apprentice/graduate currently age 18 and over, or emancipated if under age 18?

- Yes
 No

* Does the apprentice/graduate's parent/legal guardian give permission for the apprentice/graduate to be an Apprentice Trailblazer?

- Yes
 No

* Parent/Legal Guardian Name:

* Parent/Legal Guardian Telephone Number:

* Parent/Legal Guardian Email Address:

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Apprentice Trailblazer Growth and Development Activities:

For this first youth cohort, Apprentice Trailblazers will have the opportunity to pair with an Apprenticeship Ambassador as their mentor throughout their participation in the Initiative. Apprentice Trailblazers and Apprenticeship Ambassadors may connect on a quarterly basis to check in on commitment progress, discuss any upcoming events, network, and answer questions. The mentor relationship may also include discussions on future career development.

* If selected as an Apprentice Trailblazer, would you want to be paired with an Apprenticeship Ambassador as your mentor?

- Yes
 No

All Apprentice Trailblazers will also have the opportunity to virtually attend meetings and/or events with various Apprenticeship Ambassadors.

* If selected as an Apprentice Trailblazer, would you be interested in attending virtual meetings and/or events with the Apprenticeship Ambassadors?

- Yes
 No

Application Questions:

Responses can be provided by either the Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor or the apprentice/graduate.

*** Why should this apprentice/graduate be an Apprentice Trailblazer?**

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*** Please briefly explain how this apprentice/graduate has demonstrated exemplary leadership, mentoring, teamwork, promotional activities, and/or has a transformative story during their Registered Apprenticeship.**

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*** Does the apprentice/graduate have access to a mobile phone/computer and internet service to support their participation as an Apprentice Trailblazer?**

- Yes
 No

If an apprentice/graduate does not have mobile phone/computer/internet access, we recommend the Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor contact the local workforce board or American Job Center for supportive services.

[Save and Send to Apprentice/Graduate](#)

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***All items noted with an asterisk require a response.**