

STATE APPRENTICESHIP EXPANSION, EQUITY, AND INNOVATION GRANTS

Lead Applicant / Organization Name	Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training
Lead Applicant Entity Type:	State Agency
Lead Applicant City and State:	Cranston, Rhode Island
Project Title: Apprenticeship Forward	
Funding Amount Requested: \$3,962,000	
Application proposing diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts as a key strategy in registered apprenticeship expansion efforts and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion plan is included as application to application: Yes	
Total Number of apprentices enrolled in RAPs during the life of the grant: 625	
Populations to be Served: Unemployed and Underemployed from the state's urban core communities; subpopulations that were disproportionately impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.	
REQUIRED PARTNERS:	
Name:	Type of Organization:
Department of Labor and Training	Required
State Apprenticeship Agency & Council	Required
Building Futures, a 501(c)3 Organization	Subrecipient
Governor's Workforce Board (GWB)	State & Local WDB
Multiple Industry Sector Partnerships (Real Jobs RI)	Workforce Intermediaries
Construction Employer Associations (RIAGC, CIRI)	Construction RAPs
RI Building and Construction Trades Council (RIBCTC)	Construction RAPs
Targeted Industry(ies) and/or Occupation(s): Construction, Healthcare, Manufacturing, Green/Plant-based Industries, Business Services	
Summary of Program Activities: Quality career paths have remained elusive in Rhode Island's communities of color, which continue to experience poverty at disproportional rates. In Rhode Island, 71% of jobs require post-secondary education, yet less than half of RI adults hold a college degree – a gap that is significantly greater with Hispanic and African-American residents. Compounding these challenges, Rhode Island's economy remains deeply impacted by the pandemic, with COVID-19 responsible for 84% of all initial unemployment claims in 2020, and disproportionately impacted the urban core cities. Rhode Island's <i>Apprenticeship FORWARD</i> project recognizes RA as a key strategy to address the state's challenges. Our focus is on industries with the most projected demand for skilled labor: 1) Construction; 2) Healthcare; 3) Manufacturing; 4) Green/Plant-based Industries; and 5) Business Services (e.g. information technology, finance/insurance, and professional services occupations). Each target industry has strong RA programs established.	

Our Apprenticeship Rhode Island (ARI) partnership will continue to build RA system capacity, developing nontraditional programs and providing support for State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA) process improvements. This apprenticeship intermediary strategy deepens efforts to incorporate RA within the broader public education and workforce development system. With market demand and a long history of successful programs, the construction industry provides a sector-based “learning laboratory” for the RA system. During the project, RA will be further connected with community-based organizations serving underrepresented populations, develop articulation with K-12, Adult Ed Providers, and Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs) and become more incorporated within state and local workforce board activities. Importantly, each of the apprentices that complete their Registered Apprenticeship will gain the national portable certification this accomplishment earns.

List of Credentials to be Awarded: In addition to trade licenses including electricians, pipefitters, and HVAC technicians, Rhode Island’s proposal includes credentials in diverse nontraditional occupations including, but not limited to: network security, healthcare occupational licenses such as Pharmacy Technician and LPN, and other occupational-specific industry-recognized credentials.

The census tract number(s) in your target area designated as a qualified opportunity zone, if applicable: RI has 25 designated Qualified Opportunity Zones, with the majority in Providence County. Our statewide project will support all of these zones, with a specific focus on our RIYAP target communities including the following zip codes: 02905, 02907, 02903, 02909, 02863, 02860, and 02895, including the following census tracts: 4400700010, 44007000200, 44007000600, 44007000800, 44007001900, 44007002500, 44007011100, 44007011800, 44007014700, 44007015100, 44007015200, 44007016100, 44007016700, 44007017900, 44007018000, and 44007018500.

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