

Project Abstract-Arkansas Apprenticeship-Building Capacity and Organization (AABCO)

2019 State Apprenticeship Expansion Grant	
Lead Applicant Organization's Name:	Arkansas Office of Skills Development
Tier I Funding Amount:	\$450,000

Tier I Baseline Goals:

1. National Apprenticeship System Building: a. Improve coordination of resources and expand the infrastructure necessary to ensure that all RAPs across the state adopt and maintain the features of high-quality apprenticeship described in 29 C.F.R., parts 29 (Subpart A) and 30; b. Improve systematized framework for identifying, cultivating, and registering new programs in compliance with 29 C.F.R., parts 29 (Subpart A) and 30. **2. System Alignment for Apprenticeship Expansion:** a. Increase alignment between state education and workforce systems; b. Scale the RAP model into new industries, namely Agriculture, Energy, and Financial Services; c. Increase access to RAPs for underserved populations. **3. Improving Data Sharing and Data Integrity:** Develop and launch a new RAP website.

Short Project Summary:

Arkansas Apprenticeship-Building Capacity and Organization (AABCO) will further existing registered apprenticeship program (RAP) development and expansion efforts in Arkansas by executing innovative strategies that will scale the RAP model into Agriculture, Energy, and Financial Services, increase diversity of RAP populations, and extend RAP into new communities, including those with underserved populations. Several innovative strategies to increase system-building and strengthen infrastructure will be executed, including 1) the identification and evaluation of industry intermediaries to support the project management efforts of the Office of Skills Development (OSD), 2) the leveraging of existing private business, industry associations, foundations and special-interest groups that successfully promote the betterment of underrepresented populations to reach diverse populations, and 3) the creation of a new, comprehensive RAP website to address the informational needs of employers and apprentices and to support state agencies' efforts to track relevant metrics that will aid in RAP expansion.