



Hugh McDonald
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

Cody Waits
DIRECTOR OF
WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS

American Manufacturing Apprenticeship Incentive Fund – Abstract

Lead Applicant / Organization Name:

Arkansas Department of Commerce, Division of Workforce Services

Lead applicant entity type:

State Agency

Lead Applicant City and State:

Little Rock, Arkansas

Project Title:

American Manufacturing Apprenticeship Incentive Fund

Funding Amount:

\$35,800,000

Geographic Scope of Proposed Project:

United States of America

Strategic Partnerships:

Strategic partners may include but are not limited to organizations such as the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA), the National Association of State & Territorial Apprenticeship Directors (NASTAD), the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), Be Pro Be Proud (BPBP), National Manufacturing Institute, and other recognized workforce intermediaries, as appropriate.

Project Purpose:

The purpose of this cooperative agreement is to advance the expansion of Registered Apprenticeship programs and the number of apprentices in the manufacturing sector in alignment with “America’s Talent Strategy”, the President’s Executive Order on preparing Americans for high-paying, skilled trade jobs of the future and Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders’ Workforce Strategy. As a national leader in workforce innovation, the State of Arkansas will serve as the primary convener and implementer of a multi-state strategy aimed at strengthening the manufacturing talent pipeline across the country.

Partner Activities:

To maximize national reach and impact, Arkansas will partner with national and sector-based organizations with a demonstrated capacity to scale apprenticeship models and serve as liaisons between employers, education partners, and state systems in direct support and alignment with the success of the American Manufacturing Apprenticeship Incentive Fund.

These partners will:

- Expand apprenticeship ecosystems by providing outreach, coordination services, and technical support, as needed.
- Leverage existing national networks to accelerate cross-state adoption and successful replication of the Incentive Fund model.
- Support industry-specific program design and alignment with nationally portable credentials.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

1. Registered Apprenticeship Program Sponsor Incentive Program:

- To stimulate apprenticeship adoption at scale, Arkansas will launch a nationwide Incentive Fund targeting manufacturers of all sizes to build new apprenticeship pipelines and expand existing ones to meet the evolving demands of advanced manufacturing sector.

2. Strategically Partner with National and Sector-Based Organizations:

- To maximize national reach and impact, Arkansas will partner with national and sector-based organizations who have an interest in scaling Registered Apprenticeship models and serve as liaisons between employers, education partners, and state systems.

3. Federal and Multi-State Collaboration & Systems Alignment:

- Arkansas will ensure strong alignment with federal priorities and national apprenticeship expansion efforts by working closely with the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship, and State Apprenticeship agencies across the country.

Public Contact Information:

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