

To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office (FRDO)
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: DOL Youth Apprenticeship Readiness Grant Program (FOA-ETA-20-06)

Date: April 15, 2020

UNM Researchers,

The Office of the Vice President for Research is requesting e-mails of interest for the US Department of Labor's Youth Apprenticeship Readiness Grant Program (FOA-ETA-20-06) funding opportunity. **The funding agency limits the number of proposals per lead institution to one.** The Youth Apprenticeship Readiness grant program's purpose is to support the enrollment of youth (16-24 years, in-and-out of school) into new or existing Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAP), and ensure that wraparound services, such as childcare, transportation, and other support services that enable a participant's participation in the program, are provided to improve youth apprentices' prospects for success in the program. The full solicitation can be found here, <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=325965>.

Expanding the apprenticeship model in the nation will help more individuals gain the skills necessary to fill vital labor market vacancies and help more employers find skilled workers more easily and quickly. Research suggests several factors that contribute to the current skills gap, including a lack of workers who have the specialized skills needed to fill many trade positions and a lack of applicants with the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills needed for many of today's jobs.

Goals of the grant include:

- 1) Increase awareness and adoption of the earn-and-learn apprenticeship model as a solution for experiential learning at the secondary educational level;
- 2) Increase parental, young adult, and employer awareness around the benefits of youth participation in RAPs, as well as their engagement in these models;
- 3) Develop and expand the number of RAP opportunities for youth, ensuring they meet RAP standards and pre-apprenticeship programs are of high quality and lead to RAP;
- 4) Increase academic and career-focused learning among youth, based on sound assessments, to increase employability in the labor force;
- 5) Promote increased alignment between state education and workforce systems through the development of policies that facilitate the transition from school to a RAP; and
- 6) Increase RAP opportunities for all youth, particularly underrepresented populations (including women, people of color, ex-offenders, persons with disabilities), youth with barriers to employment, and out-of-school youth.

Proposals are due to the sponsor by May 6, 2020. Applicants may request any funding amount between \$1,000,000 and \$5,000,000 as long as the proposed minimum number of apprentices enrolled meets or exceeds the minimum required according to Figure 1 of the solicitation (between 200-900 depending on the amount requested). The period of performance is 48 months with an anticipated start date of July 1, 2020.

The lead applicant must also include the following organizations, in the quantity specified below, as required partners on the application:

- i. A minimum of two employer partners, or an industry/trade associations that represents at least two employers;
- ii. Education or Training Provider (as described in Section III.A.1.i) ;
- iii. The State Apprenticeship Agency (for states with a federally recognized SAA); and
- iv. An entity carrying out activities under Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), such as a local workforce development board (as described in Section III.A.1.ii).

If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please send a brief statement of interest with your name, department, proposed team including the specific required partner organizations listed above, and short (200 word maximum) description of your proposed project idea via e-mail to limited@unm.edu by **NOON, Tuesday, April 21, 2020**.

Please distribute this notice to departments and individuals whom you believe would be interested.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford (CFord@salud.unm.edu) or Cassandra Misenaar (CMisenaar@salud.unm.edu) for more information.