



U.S. Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration

Registered Apprenticeship: What Every Government Official Should Know

Apprenticeship is a proven training strategy that improves the skills of our workforce and enhances the efficiency and productivity of our industries. Investment in the registered apprenticeship system is a wise use of government dollars, and pays for itself many times over. As the nation faces a critical shortage of skilled workers, expanding apprenticeship opportunities offers an effective approach to meet the needs of industry and our citizens in search of high-quality training and good jobs.

What is Registered Apprenticeship?

Apprenticeship, a proven training strategy that prepares skilled workers, helps America compete more effectively in the global economy, and contributes to our economic development, sustained economic growth and national security.

Who Does Registered Apprenticeship Serve?

Nationwide, 80,000 industries and companies offer registered apprenticeship training to more than 395,000 apprentices. These training programs serve a diverse population, including minorities, women, youths and dislocated workers. Currently, approximately 80% of all apprenticeship training positions are in the construction and manufacturing industries. Experts agree, however, that apprenticeship has the potential to benefit numerous other industries, as well, including the service, retail, and the public sector. With this in mind, the possibilities for expanding apprenticeship -- and meeting the needs of many more American companies and citizens in search of high quality training opportunities -- are virtually unlimited.

Who Operates and Pays for Apprenticeship Training?

Registered apprenticeship programs are operated by private industry - employer or labor/management sponsors. Registered apprenticeship programs range from one to six or more years in length. For the apprentice, this translates into an "industry scholarship" worth \$40,000 to \$150,000. Since the content of the training program is determined by industry needs, apprenticeship produces workers with high demand skills.

What Role Does Government Play in Apprenticeship?

As a result of the Federal Apprenticeship Act of 1937, the federal government (specifically the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship Training, in cooperation with the states) oversees the nation's apprenticeship system. The agency issues Certificates of Completion to apprentices, encourages the development of new programs through marketing and technical assistance, protects the safety and welfare of apprentices, and ensures that all programs provide high-quality training to apprentices.

What is Government's Return on Investment for Apprenticeship?

The government's return clearly outperforms other types of government-sponsored job training programs. Apprentices "earn as they learn," and wages paid totally by the private sector begin as soon as the apprentice enters training.



What is an apprentice? An apprentice is a paid worker who is enrolled in a special training program administered by an employer together with a labor organization or trade association. Most apprentices work in trades related to construction.

Apprenticeship is a formal method of training in a skilled occupation, craft, or trade. During the apprenticeship period, the apprentice receives 2,000 hours or more of structured on-the-job training with at least 144 hours of related classroom instruction. Apprenticeship requires a written agreement between the program sponsor (employer) and the apprentice.

The [U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training](#) establishes guidelines, procedures, and standards and assists employers in the development of apprenticeship programs.

Interested Illinois employers may contact:

[IDES Apprenticeship Coordinator](#)

33 South State Street
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Many job opportunities

During the next 10 to 15 years, the number of construction-related jobs in Illinois is expected to grow at a very healthy pace. The greatest growth will occur in electrical work, masonry and stonework, plastering, and other specialties.

Most apprenticeships take three to five years to complete. The typical program includes 2,000 hours of on-the-job training plus at least 144 hours per year of related classroom instruction.

Apprentices earn about half the going tradesperson's wage to start. Pay is gradually increased over the length of the apprenticeship, until training is completed and the trainee graduates to full trade person status.

IDES can help you get started

Some offices (see list below) of IDES serve as Apprenticeship Information Centers where you can obtain detailed information about apprenticeships. Staff will help you decide which trade would best suit you, and can tell you about entrance requirements and when apprenticeship programs are accepting applications.

Equal Employment Opportunity. Apprenticeships provide equal employment opportunity: Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. However, admission is highly competitive. To be selected, you must meet the qualifications of the particular trade and program for which you are applying.



Apprenticeship Information Centers

The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) recognizes the construction industry's importance in the creation of jobs. Every year, thousands of people get jobs in construction and this number is predicted to increase as employers struggle to meet the demands for skilled trades people. To help individuals get started on a career in the construction trades, the IDES developed the Apprenticeship Information Centers. These centers, located in IDES and Illinois Employment Training Center (IETC) offices, allow you to obtain detailed information about apprenticeship programs and also to find out when specific construction trades are accepting applications for entrance into their program.

Requirements for Application: *(Bring the following with you to the IDES office)*

- High School Diploma or G.E.D. certificate
- The name(s) and address(es) of the high school(s) or vocational school(s) you have attended.
- A copy of your birth certificate.
- The names, addresses and telephone numbers of two or three individuals who serve as your personal references.
- A Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (Form DD-214, Veterans only)

Chicago

2550-M W. Addison Street (773) 296.6021	3500 W. Grand Avenue (773) 227.7117
2444 W. Lawrence Avenue (773) 334.6646	4931 W. Diversey Avenue (773) 889.6820
5101 S. Cicero (773) 838.3100	1657 Blue Island Avenue (312) 243.5100
1515 E. 71st Street (773) 947.2512	8750 S. Stony Island (773) 221.3737
837 W. 119th Street (773) 821.1400	3400 N. Austin Avenue (773) 736.5627
715 E. 47th Street (773) 538.9811	7500 S. Pulaski (773) 884/7000

Arlington Heights	Bolingbrook	Burbank
723 W. Algonquin Road (847) 981.7400	321 Quadrangle Drive (630) 759.0647	5608 W. 75th Place (708) 458.0500

Chicago Heights	Elgin	Evanston
1010 Dixie Highway (708) 709.3000	30 DuPage Court (847) 888.7900	1572 Maple Avenue (847) 864.3530

Joliet	Kankakee	Lombard
250 N. Chicago Street (815) 740.5101	255 N. Schuyler (815) 932.0035	837 S. Westmore-Meyers Road (630) 495.4345

Maywood	North Aurora	Woodstock
35 S. 19th Avenue (708) 338.6900	2 Smoke Tree Plaza (630) 844.6640	500 Russel Court (815) 338.7100