

# Funding Apprenticeships in Pennsylvania

## Fact Sheet for Apprentices, Sponsors, and Workforce Intermediaries

2021

Registered apprenticeships (RA) are innovative work-based training programs that allow employers to develop and prepare their future workforce, while providing individuals with an learn-while-you-earn approach to career development. More than a thousand occupations have already been apprenticed in industries including manufacturing, healthcare, transportation & logistics, information technology, and the building trades. As a proven model for workforce training, **an increasing amount of State and Federal support is available to apprentices and program sponsors**, including:

### Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

The Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) provides a variety of support for apprenticeship, including wage reimbursements to employers or wrap around services for apprentices. Support for apprenticeship that can be obtained through your local PA CareerLink® office includes:

- **Individual Training Accounts (ITAs)** – ITA funds can be used to support the related classroom instruction component of an RA program, including tuition, fees, books, equipment, and other training-related costs.
- **On-the-Job Training (OJT)** – OJT contracts with employers can support on-the-job learning component of RA through wage reimbursements. OJT may be used with both job seekers and current (incumbent) workers already employed by the business, depending on the funding available in your region.
- **Incumbent Worker Training** – Local regions may also have additional WIOA, Rapid Response or Industry Partnership funds available to support incumbent worker apprentices.
- **Customized Training** - Supports RA by meeting the special requirements of an employer or a group of employers.
- **Support Services** - WIOA-eligible individuals can receive additional services that help them participate in an apprenticeship, including registration fees, books, supplies, child care, transportation, tools, and uniforms.

The type and amount of WIOA funds available to support apprenticeship is determined by each region's local Workforce Development Board (WDB). Contact your local **PA CareerLink®** to find out more about the specific support available in your region.

### Apprenticeship State Expansion (ASE) Initiative

With funding from the US Department of Labor, the PA Apprenticeship and Training Office (ATO) is able to make available up to \$1,500 per apprentice to support the classroom and on-the-job training of diverse apprentices, including women, minorities, veterans and young adults (ages 16-24). Contact **[Apprenticeship@pa.gov](mailto:Apprenticeship@pa.gov)** to learn more.

## PAsmart Apprenticeship Grants

PAsmart is a current state-funded initiative that connects Pennsylvanians with resources to work, learn or train in the state. Funded annually through discretionary funding, the program aims to help citizens get the skills they need, the way they like, for the jobs they want. As part of the PAsmart initiative, Registered Apprenticeship, Pre-Apprenticeship, and Apprenticeship Ambassador Network Grants are offered to support potential and existing programs to increase “earn while you learn” opportunities across Pennsylvania. PAsmart Apprenticeship grant funds help build a diverse talent pipeline into the building and construction trades, and expand registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship in non-traditional industries with an emphasis on health care, manufacturing, and information technology. For more info on current PAsmart funding opportunities, please visit the [PA CareerLink®](#) apprenticeship webpage.

## Intermediary Incentive Funding

Various workforce intermediaries working in Pennsylvania are periodically able to offer additional incentive funding to support the classroom and on-the-job training costs of new apprentices. Your regional Apprenticeship & Training Representative (ATR) can connect you with intermediaries currently offering incentive funds. They can be reached anytime at [Apprenticeship@pa.gov](mailto:Apprenticeship@pa.gov).

## Additional Funding Resources

### Pell Grants

If the RA is connected to a post-secondary institution, apprentices may be eligible for \$3,000 on average to support tuition, books and lab fees. The post-secondary institution may also choose to provide a Federal Work Study grant which averages \$2,000 per apprentice.

### GI Bill

Those who qualify can receive a tax-free monthly stipend in addition to the wages they receive as an apprentice. Veterans also receive tuition and fee payments for classroom instruction.

### WEDnet

Workforce and Education Development Network of PA (WEDnet) supports apprenticeship with up to \$2,000 per employee, and up to \$100,000 per entity.

**To learn more about these and other sources of support,  
visit [www.pacareerlink.pa.gov/jponline/Common/Apprenticeships](http://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov/jponline/Common/Apprenticeships)**



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*Contact [Apprenticeship@pa.gov](mailto:Apprenticeship@pa.gov)*