

TO: POTENTIAL APPRENTICESHIP PARTNERS

**FROM: ILLINOIS WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

RE: ILLINOIS' APPRENTICESHIP EXPANSION PROGRAM APPLICATION UNDER TEGL 17-18

DATE: MAY 22, 2019

The State of Illinois is developing a funding application to expand apprenticeship under the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Apprenticeship Expansion Program. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity will apply by the June 3, 2019 deadline to receive an allotment of \$2.19 million over a period of 3 years to support activities that will result in 800 new registered apprentices. This grant opportunity represents DOL's "third round" of apprenticeship grants, and it is anticipated that funding will continue to be awarded to the States on an annual basis. According to DOL, the participants do not need to be WIOA eligible; however, each apprentice must be enrolled in a customer management system that is capable of generating quarterly participant reports.

PROGRAM FOCUS: The federal apprenticeship funding is focused on several objectives that are consistent with the goals of Governor Pritzker and the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board's (IWIB) Apprenticeship Committee including:

- Fully integrating apprenticeship into state workforce development, education, and economic development strategies and programs;
- Supporting the rapid development of new registered apprenticeship programs and/or the significant expansion of existing registered programs;
- Supporting the development and recruitment of a diverse pipeline of apprentices;
- Building state capacity to make it easier for industry to start registered apprenticeship programs and for apprentices to access opportunities; and/or
- Expanding apprenticeship opportunities in disenfranchised communities targeting underserved populations.

ILLINOIS' APPRENTICESHIP PRIORITIES: The focus of this funding opportunity is also consistent with the priorities outlined in Governor Pritzker's [Agenda for Workforce Development and Job Creation](#) including:

- Uniting workforce development partners around regional cluster strategies
- Preparing Illinois workers for careers, not just their next jobs
- Connecting job seekers with employers

IDENTIFICATION OF PARTNERS: The State wishes to foster and support regional apprenticeship partnerships. The State needs your help to identify organizations and stakeholders that are interested in expanding apprenticeships in Illinois. Different stakeholders including employers, industry associations, unions, local workforce areas, community colleges, training providers, service providers, and other non-profit organizations are needed to develop and expand apprenticeship networks throughout the State.

NEXT STEPS: Please complete and return the Illinois Apprenticeship Expansion Program's 2019 *Interest Survey* to jfoil@niu.edu by Friday, May 31, 2019 to help the State of Illinois develop the federal funding application. Based on the federal award, program funding will be made available using a formal selection process that will be detailed in a *Notice of Funding Opportunity*. Please note that the submission of an *Interest Survey* does not entitle the respondent to grant funds. Thank you in advance.