



Illinois Workforce Innovation Board

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To: Illinois Workforce Innovation Board

From: Illinois Workforce Innovation Board Apprenticeship Standing Committee

IWIB Apprenticeship Standing Committee March 16th, 2017 Report

In the past three months, the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board Apprenticeship Committee has been overseeing several initiatives: (1) U.S. Department of Labor (US DOL) State Accelerator grant, (2) US DOL State Apprenticeship Expansion grant, and (3) Governor's Cabinet on Children and Youth Apprenticeship Plus Project.

The two grants from the US DOL complement each other. The Accelerator grant is utilized to support strategic planning concerning apprenticeship, and the Apprenticeship Expansion grant is directed specifically to support the growth of Registered Apprenticeship to underrepresented populations throughout the entire State. The Apprenticeship Committee oversaw the development, review, and release of a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Using the funds from the Apprenticeship Expansion grant, this NOFO will fund three to five projects that will expand Registered Apprenticeship, in either existing or new programs, for up to \$350,000 each. After evaluating all applications submitted by March 9, 2017, funding will be awarded to the top applicants on March 31, 2017.

The Apprenticeship Committee serves as the advisory body to the Governor's Cabinet on Children and Youth Apprenticeship Plus project. In the past three months, the Apprenticeship Plus project has progressed and expanded. The expanded scope's goal is to give all youth the opportunity to learn about and have the ability to obtain high-quality stackable, industry-recognized credentials or degrees utilizing work-based learning models within a specific career pathway that will lead to self-sufficiency. Apprenticeship programs are an authentic and proven entry point onto a career pathway. This expanded scope will ensure the alignment of apprenticeship with other, ongoing efforts within the K-12 system, such as the P20 Council, the 60 by 25 Network, Talent Pipeline Management, and Pathways to Results.

The Governor's Cabinet on Children and Youth Apprenticeship Plus project continued its planning for apprenticeship pilot programs in three Economic Development Regions (EDRs) of Illinois: the Northeast EDR, specifically southern and western Cook County; the North Central EDR; and the Southern EDR. A NOFO was developed, reviewed, and released. This NOFO will fund up to 10 pilot apprenticeship programs – two to three pilots in each EDR – for at risk youth between the ages of 16-24. To engage businesses and advance apprenticeship as a workforce strategy, the project team planned and organized business and industry roundtables for each region. Two of these roundtables, one in Mt. Vernon, IL and one in Palos Hills, IL, have already been conducted. The third business and industry roundtable will be held in Bloomington, IL on March 16.

The Apprenticeship Committee will continue to oversee the two U.S. DOL grants. The U.S. DOL grants include the funding and monitoring of the NOFO for Registered Apprenticeship. Additionally, the Committee will continue its role in overseeing the Governor's Cabinet on Children and Youth Apprenticeship Plus project, which includes the NOFO for pilot apprenticeship programs for youth aged 16-24 and the alignment with other statewide initiatives.

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