

APPENDIX D: Support for Non-Traditional Apprenticeships

The State of Illinois is committed to expanding apprenticeship opportunities in non-traditional industries and occupations to meet the evolving demands of the 21st-century workforce. This NOFO represents an opportunity to invest in talent pipelines for non-traditional programs. These non-traditional apprenticeship programs can include Life Sciences, where advancements in biotechnology and pharmaceutical research create the need for skilled talent pipelines; Quantum Computing, Artificial Intelligence, and Microelectronics, cutting-edge fields that demand expertise in programming, data analysis, and hardware innovation; Clean Energy Production and Manufacturing, which includes renewable energy technologies such as wind, solar, and battery storage, as well as sustainable production processes; and Advanced Manufacturing, focusing on automation, robotics, and additive manufacturing to optimize production efficiency. Additionally, Illinois is prioritizing Next Generation Agriculture, Ag Tech, and Food Processing, where precision farming, advanced logistics, and innovative food technologies play a vital role; Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (TDL), a sector critical to ensuring supply chain resilience and efficiency through technologies like smart warehousing and autonomous vehicles; the Creative Economy, encompassing fields such as design, digital media, film, and the arts, which drive cultural innovation and economic growth; Business Occupations, including fields like human resources, insurance, banking, accounting, and more, to develop a strong talent pipeline that supports the foundational services driving the state's economy; Engineering and Architecture, where apprenticeships can prepare individuals for roles in infrastructure design, urban planning, structural engineering, and the creation of sustainable and innovative building solutions; and the Public Sector, which includes municipalities and state agencies, offering pathways to careers in public administration, infrastructure maintenance, community development, and essential government services.