Request for Applications (RFA) - SAEF3-Competitive Grant Round 2

Education & Advanced Manufacturing/Logistics, Apprenticeship Grant Opportunity

Issued by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) - Round 2

Overview

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) is issuing this Request for Application (RFA) in response to increasing demand for expanding Registered Apprenticeship and Certified Pre-Apprenticeship within the Education and Advanced Manufacturing/Logistics sectors.

This RFA seeks applications from qualified non-profit organizations to help grow both the number of Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs) and Certified Pre-Apprenticeships, as well as the number of individuals participating in them. Expected outcomes include the creation of new programs, increased participant engagement, and the development of communities of practice through collaboration among award recipients.

Funding for this grant is provided through the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Apprenticeship's State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula (SAEF) grant, awarded to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development's Work-Based Learning and Apprenticeship (DWD-WBLA).

This funding opportunity focuses primarily on covering Related Technical Instruction (RTI) costs, with limited funds available for additional supportive components described later in this document. This program aligns with Governor Braun's priorities to strengthen emerging industries such as education and advanced manufacturing in registered apprenticeship, support upskilling of the existing workforce, and develop long-term strategies for meeting employer talent needs.

Funds not distributed in this round will be available in subsequent rounds of grant opportunities in Summer of 2026.

Program Purpose

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to strengthen and expand Registered Apprenticeship and Certified Pre-Apprenticeship in the Education and Advanced Manufacturing sectors. Awardees will be required to participate in "AiHUBs" – communities of practice where practitioners share challenges, best practices, and strategies to support industry growth.

Eligible Applicants

The following entities may apply:

- Registered Apprenticeship Intermediary Organizations
- Accredited Postsecondary Institutions
- Regional Workforce Development Boards
- Current Group Sponsors
- Trade Associations
- Other qualified nonprofit or public entities capable of meeting program responsibilities

Special Note- Eligible applicants must either, currently hold or obtain registered bidder status with the State of Indiana and maintain an active SAM registration (https://sam.gov/) throughout the grant period.

Guidance on Required Partnerships

All applicants must apply in partnership with at least one employer who either:

- Currently employ participants in a Registered Apprenticeship or Certified Pre-Apprenticeship, or

- Planning to launch such a program within six months of application submission.

Employer partners must be Indiana-based and in good standing with the State

Grantee Responsibilities

Awardees (or their formal partners) will be responsible for ensuring RAPs are properly managed and operated in accordance with federal standards set by the U.S. Department of Labor (29 CFR Parts 29 & 30). Awardees will also be responsible for State-level operational grant management, including:

- Collecting and processing required participant documentation and assigned data collection
- Process participant RTI funding as outlined in the award
- Supporting the growth of industry specific RAP programs
- Tracking mentoring awards for invoicing
- Submitting quarterly financial and participant outcome reports
- Participating in quarterly AiHUB meetings to build statewide community of practice

Available Funding & Categories

Applicants may request funding in one or more categories. Awarded funds must be used only for specified categories, and each award requires a minimum number of enrolled participants. Costs must align with the maximum allowable amounts listed below.

If actual RTI expenses fall below the maximum award amount, grantees may serve additional participants within the awarded category.

Each Registered Apprenticeship award may include funding for:
- Related Technical Instruction
- Mentoring support
- Administration/Case Management Allocation

Each Certified Pre-Apprenticeship award may include funding for:
- Related Technical Instruction

- Administration/Case Management Allocation

Grant Funding Categories

Education							
Area of Grant	**Anticipated Awards**	**Minimum Enrollments**	**RTI**	**Mentoring**	**Admin**	**Case Management**	**Total per Award**
Teacher RTI (RAP)	3 awards	9	$86,500	$4,500	$5,000	$8,650	$104,650
Paraeducator RTI (RAP)	2 awards	7	$35,000	$3,500	$1,750	$3,500	$43,750
Counselor RTI (RAP)	1 award	5	$50,000	$2,500	$2,500	$5,000	$60,000
Pre-Apprenticeship	2 awards	10	$7,500	-	$375	$750	$8,625
Pre-Apprenticeship	2 awards	15	$11,250	-	$563	$1,125	$12,938
Pre-Apprenticeship	4 awards	25	$18,750	-	$937	$1,875	$21,562
Advanced Manufacturing							
Area of Grant	**Anticipated Awards**	**Minimum Enrollments**	**RTI**	**Mentoring**	**Admin**	**Case Management**	**Total per Award**
Advanced Manufacturing & Logistics RTI * (RAP)	7 awards	12	$72,000	$6,000	$3,600	$7,200	$88,800
Pre-Apprenticeship	4 awards	25	$18,750	-	$937	$1,875	$21,562

Note: All participants must be enrolled in a U.S.DOL Registered Apprentice Program or a DWD Certified Pre-Apprenticeship Program

Note: If applicant is awarded funds from this RFA as well as the Group Sponsor RFA, the above data/program funding will be withheld due to a duplicative statement of work.

*Available Occupation Options for Advanced Manufacturing & Logistics Category

Machine Tool (Mill, Lathe)
Industrial Electrical (PLC)
Industrial Maintenance
Mechatronics Technician
Robotics Technician

Quality Control
Logistics (Supply Chain Specialist, Shipping Coordinator)
Semiconductor Processing Technician
CNC (Operators or Programmers)

Allowable Uses of Funds:

RTI Funding includes**:**
- Class Tuition
- Testing/certification/licensure fees
- Tools, books, and required materials

Mentoring:
- Structured mentor training
- Stipends for qualified mentors

Case Management:
- Program management
- Compliance and reporting
- Grant required data entry
- Audit-ready recordkeeping

Unallowed Costs: *examples, not an all-inclusive list*
- Wage subsidies
- Costs outside approved scope
- Supplanting of other committed funds

Period of Performance:

The Period of Performance (PoP) for the SAEF 3 Commentative grant is July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028. The Grant Period for RFA awards: July 1, 2025, through May 15, 2028.

This award will have a delayed start and may contain subsequent award opportunities. All activities and responsibilities must fall within the overall PoP. Continuation of awards is contingent upon availability of funds, satisfactory progress, and full compliance with all terms and conditions.

Match Requirements:

SAEF 3 Competitive Grant does not require a financial match from the awardee, partners, or participants for any component of the program.

Payment process (e.g. reimbursement):

Awardee must submit invoices for reimbursement, at minimum, quarterly for the actual allowable costs incurred during the performance period. Reimbursement will not exceed the total award amount specified in the grant agreement. All payment requests must follow the submission instructions provided and be submitted no than 15 days after the end of each quarter. **Grant Rounds**

- Round 2 – Open, competitive process. Applicants may apply to multiple categories, with a total award cap of **$400,000** to include funding award from round 1, if applicable.

- **Subsequent Rounds** – Remaining categories will be re-released. Priority will be given to Round 1 & 2 awardees demonstrating early success.

Program Expectations:

Required Activities: (e.g. outreach, training, data reporting, etc.)

- All participants must be entered into Indiana Career Connect for federal reporting purposes
- All Registered Apprenticeship participants must be entered into RAPIDS by the Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor
- All quarterly reports will be completed using the templates provided to the awardee and submitted according to the instructions provided

Performance metrics:

Grant success will be measured by:

1. The number of new Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs) created
2. The expansion of existing RAPs
3. The total number of participants served

Program-wide performance targets include:

- 550 Total Minimum Participants
- 5 New RAPs
- 10 Expanded RAPs

Specific performance targets for individual awardees will vary based on the categories applied for and awarded.

Participant eligibility and target populations:

- Participants, apprentices and/or pre-apprentices, must be 16 years of age or older and eligible to work in the United States
- This funding opportunity is merit-based and aims to support the development and expansion of talent pipelines across the state

Reporting:

The Awardee must submit quarterly reports to the DWD-WBLA office within 15 days of the end of each calendar quarter (Q1-March 31, Q2-June 30, Q3-September 30, and Q4-December 31). All reports must follow the submission process and instructions provided.

Required report components include:

- Performance Progress Report (Narrative): A quarterly narrative report describing progress on all activities outlined in the approved Scope of Work
- Quarterly Financial Data: A report/invoice of expenditures incurred during the quarter

- Data and Evaluation Reporting: Quantitative performance metrics and evaluation data aligned to the assigned performance objectives

Indiana Department of Workforce Development

RFA Application for: Education & Advanced Manufacturing/Logistics Apprenticeship Grant Opportunity (Round 2)

Submission Dates & Instructions

- Submit an application for each category at:
    [SAEF Competitive Grant Application – Round 2](#)
- Deadline: April 10, 2025, 5:00 PM ET
- Award Notifications: April 30, 2026
- Grant Period for 2nd round award: July 1, 2025 – May 15, 2028

**Each Grant Category will require a separate application. Applicants can apply for multiple grant categories with all categories being listed on the single Budget & Fiscal Accountability Form. Totals of multiple grant categories cannot exceed $400,000 to include funding award from round 1, if applicable.

Checklist:

☐ Completed electronic application for each Grant Category Selected **(Scored)**

☐ Organizational eligibility statement (or RAP sponsor ID/intermediary status/Higher Education Status) **(Not Scored but Required)**

☐ Draft/approved Standards of Apprenticeship **(if applicable)**

☐ Letters/MOUs from Partners **(Not Scored but Required)**