



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 21, 2025

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Apprenticeship Tennessee Awarded with \$5.9 Million in Funding from the U.S. Department of Labor to Expand Apprenticeship Programs

Funding from the highly competitive grant will invest in young talent and expand high-quality apprenticeship opportunities across Tennessee

[July 21, 2025] Today, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has awarded Apprenticeship Tennessee nearly \$6 million to increase capacity of Registered Apprenticeship and state-certified pre-apprenticeship programs across the state. The newly awarded, highly competitive grant will be used to develop Tennessee's workforce in rural and underserved areas, expanding career pathways for a new generation of talent.

The funding includes a \$5 million grant for State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula (SAEF), with an additional \$939,312 from the grants awarded to all 50 states. Over the course of three years, part of the funding will go toward piloting career and technical education (CTE) integration with a goal to reach over 1,500 participants, enrolling over 1,000 participants in Registered Apprenticeships and about 150 participants in high-school level programming including pre-apprenticeships.

In early 2025, Apprenticeship Tennessee partnered with Community Funding Accelerator (CFA) for strategic guidance and technical review support to help shape their grant application. Through CFA's collaboration, Apprenticeship Tennessee's application stood out among 50+ jurisdictions, resulting in one of 10 awardees that won the competitive funding. In this effort, Apprenticeship Tennessee also partnered with the Tennessee Department of Education.

Since the beginning of the year, over 134,000 new apprentices have registered across the nation. The nearly one million in base funding that has been awarded is part of the DOL's

larger effort to award \$84 million in grants to 50 states and territories to meet the administration's goal of one million active apprentices.

"This funding represents a critical investment in Tennessee's workforce and our state's economic future. By expanding access to high-quality apprenticeship programs, more Tennesseans will have access to career building skills and employers will have a stronger talent pipeline, creating opportunities for our communities to thrive long-term," **said Tennessee Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Deniece Thomas.**

"This grant award is not only a win for Apprenticeship Tennessee but a win for the entire state. It's an investment in young talent, ensuring they are prepared with industry-level skills, technical knowledge necessary for emerging fields, and career-connected learning," said **Christine Kidd, Project Leader at CFA.** "We were honored to partner on this grant application and we are excited to help propel Tennessee's many talented young people to success in these pivotal fields."

To learn more about this announcement, visit the DOL's website at dol.gov, Apprenticeship Tennessee's website at tn.gov/apprenticeshiptn and the CFA website at communityfundingaccelerator.org.

About the Community Funding Accelerator

The Community Funding Accelerator (CFA) helps communities win and implement public funding. With a focus on cradle-to-career education and workforce pathways, CFA identifies relevant funding opportunities, builds coalitions, and provides deep technical assistance to submit winning applications. CFA also supports implementation to create innovative education and workforce solutions in communities across the U.S. The CFA program is led by Delivery Associates, a public sector consulting firm.

About Apprenticeship Tennessee

Apprenticeship Tennessee is a statewide initiative from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development dedicated to expanding awareness and access to Registered Apprenticeship opportunities. Through the state's Office of Apprenticeship and its regional directors, Apprenticeship TN partners with employers and local organizations to develop high-quality programs that strengthen Tennessee's workforce and economy.