

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8317

To encourage employer participation in the national apprenticeship system.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

Mrs. TRAHAN (for herself and Mr. MORELLE) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To encourage employer participation in the national
apprenticeship system.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND**
4 **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**

5 The Administrator of the Office of Apprenticeship of
6 the Department of Labor shall award grants, contracts,
7 or cooperative agreements to eligible entities on a competi-
8 tive basis for the following purposes:

9 (1) ENCOURAGING EMPLOYER PARTICIPA-
10 TION.—To encourage employer participation in pro-
11 grams under the national apprenticeship system—

1 (A) that target individuals with barriers to
2 employment in youth apprenticeship, pre-ap-
3 prenticeship, or apprenticeship programs,
4 prioritizing nontraditional apprenticeship popu-
5 lations such as women, minorities, long-term
6 unemployed, individuals with a disability, indi-
7 viduals with substance abuse issues, veterans,
8 military spouses, individuals experiencing home-
9 lessness, individuals impacted by the criminal or
10 juvenile justice system, and foster and former
11 foster youth;

12 (B) that are in high-need social service-re-
13 lated industries, sectors, or occupations, such as
14 direct care workers and early childhood edu-
15 cators;

16 (C) that target individuals currently or re-
17 cently incarcerated; or

18 (D) among small- and medium-sized em-
19 ployers.

20 (2) IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTOR OR OCCUPA-
21 TION GRANTS FOR SMALL- AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSI-
22 NESSES.—An eligible entity that receives funds
23 under this section shall use such funds to encourage
24 participation of small- and medium-sized businesses

1 in programs under the national apprenticeship sys-
2 tem, which may include—

3 (A) providing financial assistance to em-
4 ployers to support costs related to the program,
5 such as training incumbent workers as mentors
6 or employees supervising the on-the-job learn-
7 ing;

8 (B) supporting the cost of related instruc-
9 tion or wages for program participants during
10 related instruction;

11 (C) providing technical assistance to small-
12 and medium-sized businesses on the program
13 registration process and leveraging other avail-
14 able funds to support carrying out programs
15 supported by this grant; or

16 (D) establishing or expanding partnerships
17 to support program development or expansion,
18 including establishing or expanding industry or
19 sector partnerships to ensure inclusion of small-
20 and medium-sized businesses.

21 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.**

22 In this Act, the term “eligible entity” means—

23 (1) a program sponsor;

1 (2) a State workforce development board or
2 State workforce agency, or a local workforce develop-
3 ment board or local workforce development agency;

4 (3) an education and training provider, or a
5 consortium thereof;

6 (4) if the applicant is in a State with a State
7 apprenticeship agency, such State apprenticeship
8 agency;

9 (5) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization;

10 (6) an industry or sector partnership, a group
11 of employers, a trade association, or a professional
12 association that sponsors or participates in a pro-
13 gram under the national apprenticeship system;

14 (7) a Governor;

15 (8) a labor organization or joint labor manage-
16 ment organization; or

17 (9) a qualified intermediary.

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