

## **New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) Apprenticeship State Expansion (ASE) – Registered Apprenticeship Group Programs**

### **Request for Applications (RFA)**

### **Questions and Answers Pertaining to the RFA**

(Updated 02/01/2022. New questions and answers are posted at the end of weeks that they are received and indicated below after each revision date.)

Funding opportunity announcements are available at the New York State Department of Labor website at <https://dol.ny.gov/funding-opportunities-0>.

**Q #1) Are NYS DOL proposed apprenticeships limited to existing U.S. Department of Labor approved occupations for apprenticeships? If so, are “Community Health Workers” recognized as an approved occupation for apprenticeships? If not, can they be added as an approved occupation for apprenticeships?**

**A #1)** Proposed apprenticeship programs seeking to register with the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) are not limited to existing U.S. Department of Labor approved occupations for apprenticeships. For new occupations/trades where no training outline exists, NYSDOL will conduct a job study with the potential sponsor to develop a training outline that can be used industry wide.

Please be advised that Community Health Worker is already an approved trade in the NYSDOL Registered Apprenticeship (RA) program.

**Q #2) Among the listed entities that may apply to become a sponsor of a NYS Registered Apprenticeship (RA) Program are *Industry Associations*. Can Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of NYS, Inc. (a nonprofit membership entity) which represents substance use treatment, prevention and recovery programs statewide qualify as an Industry Association for purposes of the Apprenticeship State Expansion Grant program?**

**A #2)** NYSDOL’s Apprenticeship Office has developed a Group Apprenticeship Program model where entities, as described below, act as the sponsor of an RA Group Program. Businesses can then sign on as a signatory employer to the Group Program instead of applying to become an individual sponsor, allowing participating businesses to almost immediately begin enrolling and training apprentices. Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of NYS, Inc. may be eligible to apply to become a Group Program sponsor.

Entities that may apply to be Group Program sponsors include but are not limited to: industry associations; labor-management associations; and/or a group of employers. To learn more about Group Apprenticeship Programs and how to apply to become a sponsor of an NYS RA Group Program, contact your local NYSDOL Apprenticeship office (see <https://labor.ny.gov/apprenticeship/contactus.shtm>).

**Q #3) What is the application process to become a sponsor of a NYS RA Group Program and what is the projected timeframe for the sponsor application review, posting for public comment and ultimate determination of eligibility for the program?**

**A #3)** To apply to become a sponsor of an NYS RA Group Program, contact your local NYSDOL Apprenticeship office (see <https://labor.ny.gov/apprenticeship/contactus.shtm>).

Staff will explain the NYS Registered Apprenticeship Program, how the application process works, and the Apprenticeship Regulations. Staff will help determine which trade(s) best suit the needs of a potential sponsor. Many training outlines are immediately available. For new trades, staff will conduct a no-cost job study, which is reviewed by the State Apprenticeship and Training Council and approved by the Labor Commissioner.

New program applications are posted online for a 30-day public comment period, per the regulations. During this time, staff members review applications to ensure applicants are in compliance with labor laws. Overall, the approval process can take anywhere from two to four months if the trade is already approved as apprenticeable, but will vary in length depending on individual circumstances. If the sponsor is applying for a program in a new trade, that will take additional time.

**Q #4) Would NYS DOL agree with our supposition that “Community Health Workers” would qualify as an apprentice-able occupation under the Healthcare category of the ASE grant program?**

**A #4)** Under the ASE-1 RFA, NYSDOL is particularly interested in expanding RA Group Programs in priority industries including, but not limited to, Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare, Information Technology, Hospitality, Film, Transportation and Logistics, sewing/textiles, and others. Community Health Worker is an eligible trade under the ASE-1 RFA.

**Q#5) Can the ASE funds be used to sponsor apprentices who are also being supported through the AEG grants?**

**A#5)** ASE funds cannot be used to sponsor apprentices supported through the AEG grant. Per Section III.A. of the RFA, Applicants with existing or pending contracts with NYSDOL remain eligible to apply for funding under this ASE-1 RFA if the application does not propose services to the same individuals as the existing or pending NYSDOL contract(s). In addition, the payments requested from awarded contracts under this RFA cannot duplicate reimbursement from other sources of funding. Please note: the same apprentice cannot be counted under two different funding sources. For example, if a signatory employer to a Group Program is receiving Apprenticeship Expansion Grant (AEG-2) funding for an apprentice, the Group Program that signatory employer belongs to may not receive funding through this grant for that same apprentice.

### ***New Questions as of 12/20/2021 start below***

**Q#6) Are Community Colleges who are registered association sponsors eligible to apply for the expansion grant?**

A#6) We currently have two expansion grants out.

If you are inquiring about the Apprenticeship State Expansion (ASE) Grant, an eligible Applicant must be a sponsor of an active or probationary NYS Registered Apprenticeship (RA) Group Program, or a lead applicant designated by a sponsor of an active or probationary NYS RA Group Program, or be an applicant for a NYS RA Group Program whose application has been received by NYSDOL and posted on the NYSDOL website for public comment. (see <https://dol.ny.gov/apprenticeship/sponsors-and-programs>). Group Program sponsors include but are not limited to: industry associations; labor-management associations; and/or a group of employers. To learn more about Group Apprenticeship Programs and to learn if you may be eligible to apply to become a sponsor of an NYS RA Group Program, contact your local NYSDOL Apprenticeship office (see <https://labor.ny.gov/apprenticeship/contactus.shtm>).

If you are inquiring about the Apprenticeship Expansion Grant (AEG), an eligible applicant must be a sponsor of an active or probationary NYS RA program, a lead applicant designated by a sponsor of an active or probationary NYS RA group program, a signatory employer to an active or probationary NYS RA group program (please note that signatory and NYS RA group program awardees cannot serve the same apprentices), or be an applicant for a NYS RA program whose application has been received by NYSDOL and posted on the NYSDOL website for public comment. (see: <https://dol.ny.gov/apprenticeship/sponsorsand-programs>). Sponsors include individual employers, groups of employers, or partnerships between an employer(s) and a labor union(s). To learn if you may be eligible to apply for a NYS RA program, contact your local NYSDOL Apprenticeship office (see: <https://labor.ny.gov/apprenticeship/contactus.shtm>).

### ***New Questions as of 02/01/2022 start below***

**Q#7) I have an organization interested in becoming a Group Sponsor for the Building Maintenance Mechanic program (100%) and possibly Energy Efficiency Tech (NYSERDA).**

**Q#7a – Do they qualify for ASE-1 grant if they apply for those trades? Or maybe just 1?**

A#7a) Both Apprenticeship State Expansion (ASE) and Apprenticeship Expansion Grant (AEG) are designed to expand Registered Apprenticeship (RA) in NYS. Therefore, any RA in the field of construction (O\*NET Family Code 47) is prohibited, unless the trade is to be used for the upkeep and maintenance of a facility owned by the business entity employing the apprentice, such as plant maintenance trades. The occupations that are allowed would depend on the O\*Net designation as determined by targeted job duties.

The aforementioned Building Maintenance Mechanic program may be allowable if designated as O\*Net 49-9071.00, Maintenance and Repair Workers, General or other allowable O\*Net family. However, Energy Efficiency Tech may not be allowable if designated as O\*Net 47-2152.04, Solar Thermal Installers and Technicians or other prohibited O\*Net title. Learn more about O\*Net titles in Section III.C of AEG or II.B.1 of ASE.

**Q#7b – Do they qualify for the AEG2 grant if they apply – they are looking to at have at least 25 apprentices for this program.**

A#7b) Both ASE and AEG have similar applicant eligibility requirements. The main difference between the two grants is that ASE requires the applicant to be a sponsor of a group program while AEG does not. Eligible Applicants must, as defined in Section III.A of both RFAs, be:

For ASE - A Group Program Sponsor or their Lead applicant (those applicants who are designated by a sponsor of an active or probationary NYS RA group program).

For AEG - A sponsor of an active or probationary NYS RA program, a lead applicant designated by a sponsor of an active or probationary NYS RA group program, a signatory employer to an active or probationary NYS RA group program.

There are many variables that determine if an applicant could qualify for an RA grant. Generally, if an applicant should develop an RA program that was not prohibited and the applicant meets all applicant/minimum eligibility, they could qualify for funding. Please see the full RFA text of ASE and/or AEG to be certain all requirements are met. The RFAs can be found on the New York State Department of Labor Funding Opportunities webpage at <https://dol.ny.gov/funding-opportunities-0>.

**Q#7c – Based on the NYDOL draft I have for the Energy Efficiency Tech training program (Appendix A &B) – the O-net code is 13-1199.01. Based on that and the information you provided below, does that mean it would qualify for both the ASE & AEG-2 grants?**

A#7c) O\*Net code 13-1199.01, Energy Auditors, has been retired. Energy Auditors is now considered O\*Net code 47-4011.01. The O\*Net page for this title can be viewed here: <https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/47-4011.01>

Registered Apprenticeship Programs in O\*NET Family Code 47 are prohibited, unless the trade is to be used for the upkeep and maintenance of a facility owned by the business entity employing the apprentice, such as plant maintenance trades. Therefore, the RA you describe would not be eligible for either AEG or ASE funding.