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NJ Labor Department Announces \$2M Grant for Pre-Apprenticeship Training

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2021

TRENTON – The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOL) has announced \$2 million in available grant funding through the Pre-Apprenticeship in Career Education (PACE) training program.

Pre-apprenticeship programs funded through PACE provide education and training that prepare participants for placement into a Registered Apprenticeship program, into a post-secondary college or occupation-specific career training program, or into the workforce. PACE programs must have a documented partnership with at least one Registered Apprenticeship program sponsor. Together, these programs expand career pathways with industry-based training and classroom instruction, leading to better-paying positions and advanced credentials.

“Navigating through the pandemic and emerging stronger requires concerted action to support New Jersey workers as they adapt to the changes brought by COVID-19,” said Governor Murphy. “Today’s investment in workforce training will provide our workers a pathway to long-term, good-paying jobs as we look toward economic recovery.”

PACE was developed by the New Jersey Office of Apprenticeship, which is part of Governor Murphy’s New Jersey Apprenticeship Network initiative announced in March of 2018. Since Governor Murphy took office in January 2018, 396 new Registered Apprenticeship programs have been approved in New Jersey – a 61% increase – and on-boarded 6,697 new apprentices, bringing the total number of active apprentices in the state to 8,892 serving in 1,007 programs.

PACE programs provide tools such as job readiness, essential skills, and occupation-specific training. In addition, PACE funding can be used to offer stipends to participants to offset costs of supportive services, such as childcare and transportation. The PACE program was developed primarily to help alleviate economic barriers that hinder upskilling.

“In tandem with our more than 1,000 apprenticeship programs, pre-apprenticeship will play a vital role in helping our workforce recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo. “Whether you are entering or re-entering the workforce, reskilling or upskilling, participation in a PACE program is a sturdy stepping-stone to gainful, sustainable employment.”

NJDOL’s Office of Apprenticeship will host remote technical assistance workshops on March 9 and March 16 to provide guidance to interested parties who meet the application requirements of the NGO. [Click here to register for these workshops.](#)

PACE grant applications that include pre-apprenticeship training and placement into employment for residents affected by COVID-19 will be given higher priority. Applications that seek to build career pathways for individuals without a high school diploma or recognized equivalent, as well as those that demonstrate a viable strategy to recruit targeted populations as outlined in the Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO), will also receive greater consideration.

Since the inception of PACE in 2019, the NJDOL has awarded more than \$1.8 million in PACE grant funding to nine recipients.



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NJ adds jobs in July; 7th consecutive months of gains. [nj.gov/labor/lwdhome/...](https://nj.gov/labor/lwdhome/)

Aug 19, 2021



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As of the latest reporting, more than \$33 billion in unemployment benefits have been sent to Garden State workers. With federal benefits set to expire on September 4, we encourage everyone to check your email and visit [MyUnemployment.nj.gov](https://myunemployment.nj.gov) for updates and available resources.



For eligibility details and more information, including submission deadlines, read the [full Notice of Grant Opportunity](#).

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