

[Home](#)[/ NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development Announces \\$1M in Grant Funds to Support Degree Apprenticeship Programs](#)

NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development Announces \$1M in Grant Funds to Support Degree Apprenticeship Programs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 19, 2022

TRENTON – The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOL) today announced \$1 million in available grant funding to encourage the development of Degree Apprenticeship structures that integrate paid on-the-job learning with credit-bearing classroom education.

The Degree Apprenticeship model pairs apprenticeship partners with institutions of higher education to give student apprentices the opportunity to concurrently fulfill the requirements of a Registered Apprenticeship program and those of an associate's, bachelor's, or graduate degree by earning college credits for their paid work-based learning.

The NJ Pathways Leading Apprentices to a College Education (NJ PLACE 2.0) program grant also encourages institutions of higher education to conduct prior learning assessments for students who have completed a Registered Apprenticeship program and award college credits retroactively.

Degree Apprenticeship programs developed under NJ PLACE 2.0 allow students to earn an apprentice wage and college credits at the same time.

"Investments made today help build our state's workforce of tomorrow. It's imperative that we connect individuals, including those who are financially disadvantaged and from underrepresented communities, to opportunities in high-growth industries," said Senate Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz (D-Essex). "Degree apprenticeship programs allow students to gain valuable career experience and compensation, all while continuing to pursue a degree. The overall return on investment will yield well-rounded graduates and a highly skilled workforce."

Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo noted: "A Degree Apprenticeship program is a direct line from the classroom to a career, and eliminates the hard choice many students face of having to forego their education and career aspirations to earn a paycheck. This model enables student apprentices to do both – simultaneously."

NJ PLACE was developed in 2004 to remove barriers between the academic content of vocational education and other forms of postsecondary education, and, in January 2010, the state Legislature formally established NJ PLACE under the NJDOL.

NJ PLACE 2.0 was launched in 2020 as part of Governor Murphy's JobsNJ initiative, a talent-focused economic development strategy to help re-establish New Jersey's leadership in the innovation economy. NJ PLACE 2.0 affords colleges and students even more options to integrate work-based learning with post-secondary education.

Applicants interested in applying for the NJ PLACE 2.0 program must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) expressing interest in the grant opportunity no later than noon, February 25, and applications must be received no later than noon, March 4. Partnership between employer partner and degree granting post-secondary institution applicants are required.

Grant funds are intended to cover direct costs of the Degree Apprenticeship program, including on-the-job training tuition and wages, related technical instruction tuition, and cost reimbursement for prior learning assessments, to a maximum of \$7,500 per student apprentice.



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Replying to @NJJaborDept
NJDOL is working through the details of the updated guidance and will notify eligible claimants of their next steps. We're grateful to @USDOL Commissioner Walsh for his openness to state input and the dedicated staff at USDOL for their efforts on this important change.

Feb 8, 2022



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ICYMI: "USDOL Grants States Authority to Waive Certain Unemployment Overpayments"

The NJDOL's Office of Apprenticeship will host remote technical assistance workshops on January 25 and February 2 to provide guidance to interested parties who meet the application requirements of the NGO. Pre-registration three business days prior is required. To register, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/njplace-20-fy22-technical-assistance-workshop-tickets-195088233157>

For more information, view the full Notice of Grant Opportunity [here](#).

Learn about all grants available through the NJDOL [here](#).

[← Go back to all press releases](#)

Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Home

COVID-19 Resources

FAQs for Workers

COVID-19 Scenarios and Benefits

Federal and State Extended Unemployment Benefits

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

Health and Safety During COVID-19

FAQs for Businesses

Information for Working Parents and Caregivers

Additional Resources and Support

File or Access Your Claim

Temporary Disability Insurance

Family Leave Insurance

Maternity Leave

Unemployment Insurance

Social Security Disability

Worker Protections

Your Rights at Work

Workers' Compensation

Safety and Health

Wage & Hour Compliance

Paid Sick Leave

Career Support

Career Services

Employer Services

Employer Accounts

Layoffs and Closings

Wage & Hour Compliance

Business Support

Apprenticeship

Industry Partnerships

Employer Handbook

Employer Poster Packet

Research & Information

[Labor Market Information](#)

[Grant Opportunities](#)

[Workforce Innovation &](#)

[Opportunity Act \(WIOA\)](#)

[Legal Notices](#)

[Press Releases](#)

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