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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRENTON – The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOL) Office of Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning awarded a total of \$9 million to 29 organizations through a [second round of FY26 funding](#) through the Growing Apprenticeship in Nontraditional Sectors (GAINS) and Pre-Apprenticeship in Career Education (PACE) grants. These programs aim to foster the creation and expansion of apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs throughout the state.

Since the establishment of the Office of Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning in 2018, New Jersey has invested more than \$125 million through grant programs to create and develop work-based learning, pre-apprenticeship, and apprenticeship programs. This has supported the creation of 1,081 new Registered Apprenticeship programs in New Jersey – a 177 percent increase since 2018 – and enabled more than 30,000 new apprentices to be onboarded. The state currently has 11,505 active apprentices in 1,692 programs.

“These grants represent a significant investment in New Jersey’s workforce and demonstrate our continued commitment to advancing access to family-sustaining employment,” **said Acting Labor Commissioner Kevin D. Jarvis**. “By supporting both apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs across diverse industries, we are ensuring workers have access to the training and opportunities they need to succeed in today’s economy, while helping employers build the skilled workforce that drives our state’s competitiveness.”

“The GAINS and PACE programs work hand-in-hand to create comprehensive career pathways – from pre-apprenticeship preparation through registered apprenticeship and into long-term employment,” **said Bill Sarboukh, Assistant Director of the Office of Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning**. “This funding will help New Jersey residents gain the skills, credentials, and experience they need on the pathway to a rewarding career.”

GAINS

20 organizations were awarded a total of \$6 million through the GAINS program. The GAINS program develops new and existing apprenticeship programs and creates Registered Apprenticeship programs in high-growth industries, with a focus on equality of opportunity, upward mobility, and economic fairness.

GAINS funding can be used by awardees to offset training and associated costs for new registered apprentices and to reimburse up to 50 percent of a new apprentice’s wages for a maximum of \$12,000 per apprentice over 52 work weeks.

Over the past eight years, \$51.8 million in GAINS funding has been awarded to place more than 8,560 Registered Apprentices into employment across diverse fields. Examples include K-12 Teacher Apprentices, Registered Nurse Residents, Home Health Aides, Engineering Technicians, Network Support Specialists, construction-related trades, and many other occupations.

“School districts across New Jersey continue to face significant teacher shortages, and Brookdale is proud to help develop innovative solutions that benefit both educators and the communities they serve.” **said David M. Stout, Ph.D., President of Brookdale Community College**. “This continued investment by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development recognizes the success of our apprenticeship model and allows us to expand opportunities for aspiring teachers while helping school districts recruit and retain highly qualified professionals.”

Greg Lalevee, Business Manager for International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825, added: “IUOE Local 825 is honored to receive support through NJDOL’s GAINS program. This funding will strengthen our apprenticeship and skills training initiatives, expand opportunities for workers seeking careers as operating engineers – especially in the energy infrastructure, and help build a stronger, safer, more competitive workforce for New Jersey.”

The complete list of the second round of FY26 GAINS grantees includes:

FY26 Round 2 GAINS Grantees			
Grantee	Occupations	Amount	# to be Trained

Learned Potential	Early Childhood Educator; K-12 Teacher; Teacher Aide I	\$599,900	50
Local 9 Plumbers and Pipefitters Education Fund	Pipefitting; Plumber	\$419,925	35
Move Me Brightly Consulting LLC	Direct Support Specialist	\$596,814	60
New Jersey Tutoring Corps Inc.	Tutor	\$276,000	24
Raritan Valley Young Men's Christian Association	Child Care Development Specialist	\$36,000	3
Sandbar Joe's	Marketing Coordinator; Operations Assistant	\$24,000	2
The Apprenticeship Network	Early Childhood Educator	\$479,584	40
Twin Caps Consulting	Home Health Aide (Alternate Title: Health Support Specialist)	\$280,491	25
The Trustees of Princeton University	Mechanical Engineering Technician (NOF); Radiation Monitor	\$36,000	3
ACI Learning	AI Solutions Specialist; Cyber Security Support Technician; Network Support Technician; Tech Project Coordinator; Tech Support Specialist	\$372,770	40
Balanced Life Home Care Services, LLC dba BrightStar Care of Hunterdon	Home Health Aide	\$233,190	20
Brookdale Community College	Early Childhood Educator; Elementary School Teacher (NOF)	\$360,000	30
Buggin Out Pest Control	Exterminator, Termite	\$120,000	10
Composition Roofers Local No. 10 Apprentice Training Fund	Roofer	\$90,160	12
Starr Beauty and Barber Academy LLC	Barber; Cosmetologist	\$300,000	25
Kaizen Technologies Inc	Logistics Engineer; Nurse Assistant Certified (Existing Title: Nurse Assistant)	\$469,550	40
Baron-Queen, Inc.	Home Health Aide	\$749,759	90
Humanoidz NYC Foundation Inc.	Robotics Technician	\$24,000	2
International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825	Operating Engineer	\$360,000	30

New Jersey Water Association	Wastewater Systems Operator; Water Systems Operation Specialist	\$171,857	15
Total:		\$6,000,000	556

PACE

Nine organizations were awarded a total of \$3 million through the PACE program. The PACE program was developed to promote equal opportunities, upward mobility, and economic fairness while helping to alleviate economic barriers that hinder workers from upskilling opportunities.

PACE programs provide tools such as job readiness, essential skills, and occupation-specific training, and funding that can be used to offset participants’ related costs, such as childcare, transportation, and the attainment of a high school equivalency diploma or GED.

These programs must be partnered with at least one Registered Apprenticeship program sponsor. Together, the programs combine industry-based training and classroom instruction, leading to better-paying positions and advanced credentials.

More than \$27.9 million in PACE funding has been awarded since its establishment to prepare over 3,900 pre-apprentices to enter either Registered Apprenticeship, employment, or post-secondary education/vocational training.

Dr. Juail Goode, Founder & CEO of PACE grantee Goode Education Group LLC, stated: “As a Newark native, I know what a single credential can do for a family; and as a workforce partner, I know pharmacy employers need skilled, credentialed pharmacy technicians ready to contribute from day one. The FY26 PACE grant allows Goode Education Group to meet both needs at once: our 12-week Pharmacy Technician Pre-Apprenticeship Program prepares New Jersey residents for the exact roles our employer partners are hiring for, creating a direct pipeline from training to employment. For our participants, that means a nationally recognized credential, a career pathway, and real opportunity for the community. We’re honored that NJDOL trusts community-based providers like ours to deliver.”

The complete list of the second round of FY26 PACE grantees includes:

FY26 Round 2 PACE Grantees			
Grantee	Occupations	Amount	# to be Trained
American Training Center LLC	Medical Assistant	\$236,467	20
Brookdale Community College	K-12 Teacher	\$680,231	75
DSimone Artistry	Cosmetologist	\$475,000	40
East Orange School District	Construction Craft Laborer	\$224,413	20
Eastern Atlantic States Carpenters Technical Center	Carpenter	\$359,657	30
Egg Harbor Township School District	Educator and Trainer; Emergency Medical Technician; Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning (Ex. Title: Heating & Air Cond. Inst/Ser); Other - Commercial Driver and Trades Exploration; Other - Manufacturing, Construction, and Electrical; Other - Patient Care Technician	\$604,527	55
Goode Education Group	Pharmacy Technician, Retail Store (Existing Title: Pharmacist Assistant)	\$179,705	15

Hopeloft A NJ Nonprofit Corporation	Construction Craft Laborer	\$96,000	8
Woodbury City Public School District	Electrician	\$144,000	12
Total:		\$3,000,000	275

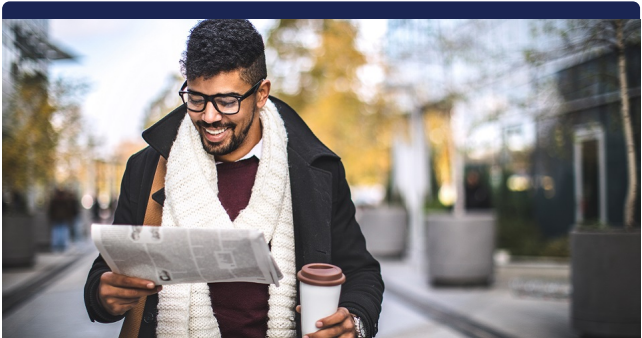
PACE programs can work strategically with GAINS-funded programs to create a seamless talent pipeline, creating a steady stream of prepared candidates for Registered Apprenticeship programs.

Find out additional information about NJDOL’s [grant opportunities](#).

Learn more about the [New Jersey Office of Apprenticeship](#).

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