**MN Department of Labor and Industry Updates**

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**Apprenticeship Minnesota**

**Registered Apprenticeship Program Application Directory**

Better align employment seekers across Minnesota with opportunities in registered apprenticeship programs, Apprenticeship Minnesota has created a Registered Apprenticeship Program Application Directory. The directory allows interested individuals to search by apprenticeable occupations and access information about corresponding registered apprenticeship programs including the application process, minimum qualifications for entry and program contact information.

To learn more about the Registered Apprenticeship Program Application Directory please visit: <https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workforce/registered-apprenticeship-program-application-directory>

**Recognized High-Quality Apprenticeship Preparation Program**

A High-Quality Apprenticeship Preparation Program is designed to prepare individuals to gain the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to enter a registered apprenticeship program (RAP) and succeed.

Apprenticeship Minnesota has created a process to recognize High-Quality Apprenticeship Preparation Programs that ensures participants receive consistent and quality training needed to succeed in registered apprenticeship programs while meeting employer and industry needs.

What is a High-Quality Apprenticeship Preparation Program?

A High-Quality Apprenticeship Preparation Program is designed to prepare individuals to enter and succeed in a registered apprenticeship program. Using guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Apprenticeship, programs must include the following elements:

1. Training and curriculum aligned with the skills and competencies, which includes meaningful hands-on training, needed to meet minimum selection criteria for entry into approved registered apprenticeship programs in Minnesota.
2. Access to supportive services to assist individuals with entry into a registered apprenticeship program and retaining employment.
3. Opportunities to attain at least one industry-recognized credential during the preparation program.
4. A documented partnership with one or more registered apprenticeship programs indicating their support for the apprenticeship preparation program.
5. An outreach strategy to increase opportunities for all populations to participate in a registered apprenticeship program

Once an organization is approved as a Recognized High-Quality Apprenticeship Preparation Program, their information will be posted on the MN Department of Labor and Industry’s website. This will allow employment seekers to research preparation programs to decide which is best fit for them.

For more information on Recognized High-Quality Apprenticeship Preparation Programs visit: <https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workforce/recognized-high-quality-apprenticeship-preparation-programs>

**New and Expanded Registered Apprenticeship Program Grant**

This grant program seeks to aid existing sponsors to expand existing programs in apprenticeable occupations, with priority given to programs in these targeted industries: education, semiconductors, information technology, advanced manufacturing, health care, hospitality, the public sector, and construction.

Funding will assist with the costs of expanding a registered apprenticeship program and may be used to cover the costs of staff time to operationalize program logistics, develop and instruct related instruction or recruit apprentices. Grant funds may also be used to purchase tools and supplies or pay for tuition for related instruction. The total available funding for the upcoming grant cycle is anticipated to total up to $640,000. Applicants may apply for up to $30,000.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis beginning Dec. 20, 2024, and will continue until all funds have been awarded, or April 30, 2026, whichever comes first.

For more information on this grant, [click here](https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workforce/new-and-expanded-registered-apprenticeship-program-grant) or contact Ruth Taylor at ruth.taylor@state.mn.us.

*\*\*\* This grant is fully funded through a $4.7million State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula Grant (24A60AP0000570) that DLI received from the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training
Administration.*

**Earned Sick & Safe Time**

**Earned sick and safe time:**  Minnesota workers now have access to [paid sick time](https://www.dli.mn.gov/sick-leave) to take care of themselves or a family member. Under the law, employees statewide earn one hour of sick and safe time for every 30 hours worked and accrue up to 48 hours of sick time each year unless the employer agrees to a higher amount. Workers are able to take time off work to take care of themselves or a family member when they are ill, to attend medical appointments or to care for a child when school has been closed due to inclement weather, without the risk of losing their jobs.

Website:  [www.dli.mn.gov/sick-leave](http://www.dli.mn.gov/sick-leave)

Fact sheet:  <https://dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/sick_leave.pdf>

YouTube video:  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iq-\_rTxCT4w](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3Diq-_rTxCT4w&data=05%7C02%7CJeremy.Parker%40state.mn.us%7C3cfa814cdd244c7e9ac508dcbb9fb8f1%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C638591541870009205%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=OaHV7q2q6pNBxSyP428kJXxQqMVbg9HDJfHlEi1TYD0%3D&reserved=0)

FAQs:  <https://www.dli.mn.gov/sick-leave-FAQs>

**Labor Standards: Learn about wage, hour laws at webinars from Labor Standards**

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry's Labor Standards Division is providing a series of webinars to help workers and employers better understand the state's wage and hour laws.

These sessions include topics such as wage and hour basics, labor standards in the construction industry, child labor laws, workplace protections for expectant and new parents, minimum wage, overtime exemptions and sick, safe and medical leave laws.

For more information on [upcoming webinars click here](https://www.dli.mn.gov/events).