



## U.S. DOL Registered Apprenticeship (RA) Technical Assistance Center of Excellence Newsletter

### August 2025 Edition

- **Center Resources and Events** - Chambers of Commerce Guide and webinar, Youth Apprenticeship Tools, Value of Group RA Programs Tip Sheet
- **Department of Labor (DOL) News** - New Guidance on RA in WIOA State Performance Narratives, State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula grantees
- **Upcoming Events** - NAWDP BSR Academy, CWA Meeting of the Minds, MD Raising the Bar Conference, FL Workforce Summit, PA Workforce Leaders Symposium

## Center Resources and Events

### RA Guide for Chambers of Commerce

America's Chambers of Commerce are important stakeholders in driving national expansion of Registered Apprenticeship (RA). The Center's recent publication "[Registered Apprenticeship & Chambers of Commerce: A Guide for Addressing Members' Workforce Needs](#)" outlines the core components of RA, explains its benefits for chambers and member businesses, and provides actionable strategies for chambers to become active facilitators in their regions.

The guide includes real-world case studies from Chambers across the country—including the Charleston, South Carolina Metro Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Cleveland Partnership, the Kentucky Chamber Foundation, and the German American Chamber of Commerce—to highlight successful approaches and scalable practices. The document concludes with practical next steps to help Chambers assess their members' workforce development needs, align with RA systems, and create strategic RA partnerships.



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## Equipping Chambers of Commerce to Lead in RA: Insights from Experts

View the Center's "Equipping Chambers of Commerce to Lead in Registered Apprenticeship" webinar and recorded Office Hours featuring Amy Shields, the Executive Director of the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) Foundation and VP of Programs, and Center RA SMEs Alan Dodkowitz, Nicole Bentley, and Jeremy Faulkner. These recorded sessions are designed to help Chambers learn from peers about successful RA implementation and how to best implement the guide.



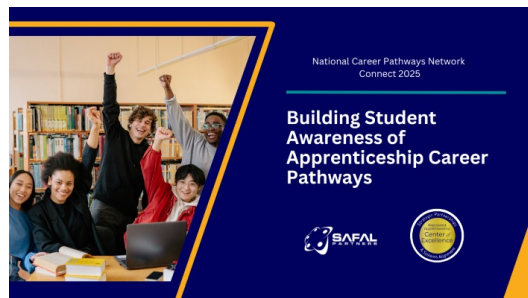
[View Webinar](#)

[View Office Hours](#)

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## Expanding Youth Apprenticeship Opportunities

With the Administration's focus on expanding RA pathways for students, the Center hosted an interactive workshop on [Building a School to Apprenticeship Pipeline for Opportunity Youth](#) during this year's National Youth Employment Coalition Forum. The presentation was designed to help youth-serving professionals establish RA programs, conduct effective outreach to opportunity youth (OY), and gain practical tools to bridge social services and the education system with the apprenticeship system. The presentation also shows how supporting OY engagement in RA can improve workforce boards' Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grantees' performance metrics and funding utilization.



The Center also presented [Building Student Awareness of Apprenticeship Career Pathways](#) during the National Career Pathways Network Connect 2025 event, equipping both stakeholders and educators with tools to incorporate RA into academic programming to build clear education-to-apprenticeship pathways.

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## The Value of Group RA Programs Tip Sheet

Group RA programs - administered by one sponsor for several participating employers - are designed to remove potential barriers to employers' adoption of RA. Becoming a group RA sponsor is a valuable role that local workforce boards and other intermediary organizations can play to accelerate RA program development for high-demand occupations.

The Center's new one-page [Value of Group RA Programs Tip Sheet](#) explains group RA programs - their structure and benefits - for potential sponsors and participating employers and provides

helpful links for organizations interested in becoming a sponsor or joining a program. Download and use today in discussions with employers in your area.

## The Value of Group Registered Apprenticeship Programs

Registered Apprenticeship (RA) is an industry-driven, high-quality career pathway where employers can develop and prepare their future workforce and individuals can obtain paid work experience with a mentor, receive progressive wage increases, classroom instruction, and a portable, nationally recognized credential. To successfully launch an RA program, you must have an RA sponsor. An effective RA program sponsor plays a key role in establishing and implementing the program by handling the essential responsibilities—completing required documentation, developing program standards in collaboration with employers, and coordinating supplemental education.

RA sponsors may work with a single employer, or they may choose to work with multiple employers. When a sponsor works with multiple employers, this is considered a group RA program. This resource explores group RA programs and how they can significantly enhance the reach and effectiveness of RA programs.

### What is a group RA program?

A group RA program is a collaborative workforce development model that allows multiple employers to participate in a single apprenticeship program. Rather than each employer building and managing a program independently, group RA programs provide a shared structure for developing talent across an industry or region.

Just as with single-employer RA programs, group programs have a sponsor, which is the entity responsible for operating and administering the program. The sponsor role can be fulfilled by a number of different entities, including but not limited to educational institutions, workforce entities, chambers of commerce, community-based organizations, unions, and industry associations. Some group RA programs are sponsored by the cohort of participating employers.

### Benefits of a group RA program

Group RA programs can help employers meet important workforce goals while making RA more accessible and streamlined to implement. The collaborative nature of group RA programs allows for leveraging expertise and sharing of resources in a way that positively impacts the development, implementation, and success of the programs.

In addition to the return on investment for all types of RA programs, which is 44.3% and \$1.44 for every dollar invested, group RA programs offer several additional benefits, including, but not limited to the following:

### EFFICIENCY, FLEXIBILITY, AND SPEED

Group RA programs offer a dynamic and streamlined approach to RA programs designed to meet the fast-paced demands of today's business environment. They are particularly beneficial for small and mid-sized employers that may lack the capacity to manage programs independently. Key advantages include:

- **Agility and scalability:** Employers can quickly join a group RA program through a simple one-to-two-page employer acceptance agreement, enabling faster scaling and flexibility compared to standalone programs.
- **Rapid implementation:** Group RA programs often allow for program launch within 48 to 72 hours, significantly accelerating time to execution.
- **Shared administrative support:** The administrative responsibilities are distributed across multiple employers, reducing the oversight burden for any single organization.
- **Streamlined talent development:** Participating employers can more quickly access, onboard, and train new talent to meet evolving workforce needs.
- **Expert support and resources:** These programs are often sponsored by intermediary organizations that provide technical assistance and access to funding resources.

## DOL Apprenticeship News

### Reporting Title I and III in State WIOA Annual Statewide Performance Report Narrative

The recent [Training and Employment Guidance Letter 5-18: WIOA Annual Statewide Performance Report Narrative](#) provided guidance that for the first time, WIOA state grantees are now required to include information under their State Strategy on "...efforts to increase access to RA programs including creation of new RA programs and expansion of existing RA programs such as new youth apprenticeship opportunities" in their annual WIOA Statewide Performance Narrative.



This new guidance is a vital step toward the Department's goal of increasing alignment between America's workforce system and RA, and will likely accelerate state and local WIOA grantees' work to develop and implement RA-supportive policies to help meet WIOA performance metrics.

### New State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula Grants Awarded



The U.S. DOL has announced nearly \$84 million in new funding through the third round of [State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula \(SAEF\) grants](#) awarded to all 50 states and territories. The investment includes both base formula and competitive funding aimed at expanding the reach and impact of RA programs nationwide. The

funding will help states grow their capacity to serve more apprentices, reduce barriers for employers, foster innovation, and increase transparency across the apprenticeship

system. It also supports expansion into both traditional fields like construction and the building trades, as well as emerging industries such as technology, artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, and supply chain logistics.

## Upcoming Events

**August 25-27, 2025**

**NAWDP Business Service  
Representatives Academy**  
**Location: Denver, CO**



NAWDP is teaming up with host sponsors Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and Rocky Mountain Workforce Development Association to offer an academy designed to equip workforce professionals working with businesses and employers with the tools, knowledge, and expertise needed to excel in the ever-evolving landscape of business services.

The Center's Senior Subject Matter Expert, Melissa Aguilar-Southard, Dun and Bradstreet's Senior Account Director, Bill Greene, will present a session on aligning RA programs with business services strategies. Business services representatives will be equipped with practical strategies and actionable insights to seamlessly incorporate RA into their employer engagement work.

[Register Here](#)

**September 2-5, 2025**

**CWA Meeting of the Minds**  
**Location: Monterey, CA**



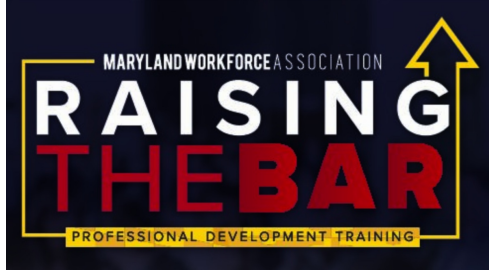
Center PD and Sr SME Katie Adams and Melissa Aguilar-Southard will present on "From Insight to Impact: Peer-Informed Tools to Expand Registered Apprenticeship." This interactive session will showcase lessons learned from the Center's work with CWA over the past three years to strengthen workforce systems' understanding and utilization of RA. The session will unpack challenges that workforce boards, educational institutions, and other workforce stakeholders have faced to growing RA and dive into actionable next steps that attendees can take to increase RA access for more Californians.

[Register Here](#)

**September 8-10, 2025**

**2025 Raising the Bar Conference**  
**Location: Hanover, MD**





The Maryland Workforce Association's, "Raising the Bar" Conference is a great opportunity for in-depth conversations and networking for workforce and educational professionals to discuss innovative workforce development

solutions for job seekers, youth, and businesses. WIOA challenges our system to be creative, flexible, and innovative in the delivery of these solutions. Center SME, Alan Dodkowitz, will present a workshop on Connecting Workforce and RA in light of the RA Investments for a Stronger Economy (RAISE) Act recently signed into law by Maryland Governor Wes Moore.

[Register Here](#)

**September 8-10, 2025**

**Florida Workforce Professional Development Summit**  
**Location: Orlando, FL**

The Florida Workforce Development Association sponsors the Workforce Professional Development Summit. This year's theme is "Building Brighter Futures: Florida's Workforce Revolution." The Center will be presenting our "Key Component of RA/Workforce System Alignment" tool during the CareerSource Suncoast's RA workshop.



[Register Here](#)



**September 24-25, 2025**

**2025 Workforce Leaders Symposium**  
**Location: Scranton, PA**

Hosted by the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Association (PWDA), join

professionals from across Pennsylvania who are working to build a stronger, more connected workforce. The PWDA Workforce Leaders Symposium brings together leaders from business, education, workforce, training, and economic development to share solutions, spark collaboration, and drive innovation. This is where strategy meets practice—where policy discussions turn into action, and cross-sector collaboration leads to lasting impact. Through interactive discussions and practical workshops, attendees will leave with tools and insights to shape their programs and lead with confidence.

[Register Here](#)



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