



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

### September 2025 Edition

- **Note from Center Project Director: "Thank You...and the Work Ahead"**
- **Center Resources** - New Tipsheets for National Guideline Standards, Workforce System Alignment, Peer-Informed Tools, Effective Outreach for Case Managers, and more...

## Thank You...and the Work Ahead

Over the past four years [Safal Partners](#) has had the privilege of leading the DOL RA TA Center of Excellence on Strategic Partnerships and System Alignment. In that time we have:

- delivered 255 virtual, in-person and hybrid TA sessions to more than 18,000 apprenticeship, workforce, and education stakeholders;
- created 82 webinars with 5,000+ participants;
- impacted 41 states via cohort or 1:1 TA;
- received 4,483 commitments by stakeholders to drive RA strategic partnerships in their local areas; and
- developed 32 new TA resources (desk aids, frameworks, guides, etc.) housed on the [Center's website](#) for stakeholder implementation and knowledge transfer.



*Katie Adams*  
Chief Delivery Officer  
Safal Partners

Working closely with our colleagues at DOL ETA Office of Apprenticeship and Office of Workforce Investment, we have completed ground-breaking work for the field, including:

- First national assessment, "Workforce System RA Baseline Knowledge Assessment Report,"
- First longitudinal analysis of Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) State Unified and Combined Plans for RA,
- First framework for RA and WIOA alignment implementation for state and local workforce boards,
- First analysis of national and state WIOA/RA co-enrollment data,
- First national report on WIOA Title I & II Partnerships,
- First pre-apprenticeship framework for adult education Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs,
- First national Apprenticeship Training Representative (ATR)/Business Service Representative (BSR) training,  
...and much more.

The Center's resources will continue to be available through our online repository and we strongly encourage stakeholders to use them for TA and training, and contact Safal

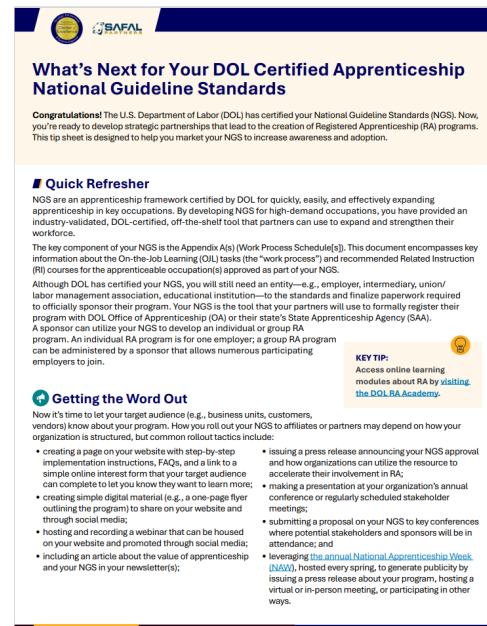
to discuss implementation support.

All of us at Safal, along with our Center partners [NAWDP](#), [COABE](#), [NDI](#), [FASTPORT](#) and [WIA](#), believe that the Center's work is a successful pilot, validating both the enormous opportunity and need for accelerated alignment of apprenticeship, workforce, and education systems. Truly embedding apprenticeship within America's workforce and education systems, and growing adoption by industry, will require sustained, national TA. We look forward to supporting this work and building a stronger America through apprenticeship.

## Center Resources

### What's Next for Your DOL National Guideline Standards?

Recognizing the importance of a strategic rollout of National Guideline Standards, the Center created [What's Next for your DOL Certified Apprenticeship National Guideline Standards](#) - a tip sheet outlining how to transition from standards approval to implementation. It offers practical steps for raising awareness, connecting with key stakeholders, and supporting partners in registering new RA programs using National Guideline Standards. This tip sheet is geared to assist any organization with National Guideline Standards understand how to best market, implement, and support adopting sponsors in National Guideline Standards implementation.



**What's Next for Your DOL Certified Apprenticeship National Guideline Standards**

**Congratulations!** The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has certified your National Guideline Standards (NGS). Now, you're ready to develop strategic partnerships that lead to the creation of Registered Apprenticeship (RA) programs. This tip sheet is designed to help you market your NGS to increase awareness and adoption.

**Quick Refresher**

NGS are an apprenticeship framework certified by DOL for quickly, easily, and effectively expanding apprenticeship in key occupations. By developing NGS for high-demand occupations, you have provided an industry-validated, DOL-certified, off-the-shelf tool that partners can use to expand and strengthen their workforce.

The key component of your NGS is the Appendix A(s) (Work Process Schedule(s)). This document encompasses key information about the On-the-Job Learning (OJL) tasks (the "work process") and recommended Related Instruction (RI) courses for the apprenticeable occupation(s) approved as part of your NGS.

Although DOL has certified your NGS, you will still need an entity—e.g., employer, intermediary, union/labor management association, educational institution—to the standards and finalize paperwork required to officially sponsor their program. Your NGS is the tool that your partners will use to formally register their program with DOL Office of Apprenticeship (OA) or their state's State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA).

A sponsor can utilize your NGS to develop an individual or group RA program. An individual RA program is for one employer; a group RA program can be administered by a sponsor that allows numerous participating employers to join.

**Getting the Word Out**

Now it's time to let your target audience (e.g., business units, customers, vendors) know about your program. How you roll out your NGS to affiliates or partners may depend on how your organization is structured, but common rollout tactics include:

- creating a page on your website with step-by-step implementation instructions, FAQs, and a link to a simple online interest form that your target audience can complete to let you know they want to learn more;
- creating simple digital material (e.g., a one-page flyer outlining the program) to share on your website and through social media;
- hosting and recording a webinar that can be housed on your website and promoted through social media;
- including an article about the value of apprenticeship and your NGS in your newsletter(s);
- issuing a press release announcing your NGS approval and how organizations can utilize the resource to accelerate their involvement in RA;
- making a presentation at your organization's annual conference or regularly scheduled stakeholder meetings;
- submitting a proposal on your NGS to key conferences where potential stakeholders and sponsors will be in attendance; and
- leveraging the annual National Apprenticeship Week (NAW), hosted every spring, to generate publicity by issuing a press release about your program, hosting a virtual or in-person meeting, or participating in other ways.

**KEY TIP:** Access online learning modules about RA by visiting the DOL RA Academy.

### A Journey to Success: Registered Apprenticeship and Workforce Development Alignment



The Center of Excellence project staff from Safal Partners joined CareerSource Suncoast in presenting [A Journey to Success: Registered Apprenticeship and Workforce Development Alignment](#), an interactive workshop at the 2025 Florida Workforce Professional Development Summit. Center Project Manager and WIOA Subject Matter Expert (SME), Jana Bauer, presented on the

Center's workforce/RA alignment work and key components for Florida boards to evaluate when integrating RA into their local workforce development plans.

### From Insight to Impact: Peer-Informed Tools to Expand Registered Apprenticeship

Safal Partners Chief Delivery Officer, Katie Adams, and Senior SME, Melissa Aguilar-Southard, presented, [From Insight to Impact: Peer-Informed Tools to Expand Registered Apprenticeship](#), at the California Workforce Association's (CWA) annual Meeting of the Minds conference, showcasing the RA alignment work the Center has teamed with CWA since 2021. This engaging session unpacked challenges that workforce boards, educational institutions, and other workforce partners have experienced in expanding RA and explored innovative strategies for scalable solutions for California.



## Workforce System Alignment with RA: Promising Practices for State and Local Boards



Hear from Center staff on promising practices for state and local workforce board alignment with RA, and from James Disbro, Senior Director of Regional Alignment and Programs Development at CareerSource Suncoast, who discusses Florida's apprenticeship expansion efforts and his board's work. View the webinar and

recorded office hours (links below) to learn more.

[View Webinar](#)

[View Office Hours](#)

## Strategies for Case Managers and Business Services Representatives to Promote RA

The Center's webinar, [Effective Outreach for Case Managers: Promoting the Value of RA for Jobseekers](#) is designed to equip case managers with practical strategies to communicate the value of RA to jobseekers, articulate career pathways, and implement outreach methods for large-scale recruitment through events, platforms, and partnerships.



The Center's webinar, [Promoting Registered Apprenticeships: Strategies for Business Services Representatives](#), with Center partner, FASTPORT, discusses effective strategies to promote RA to employers in America's transportation industry.

## Local Workforce Development Boards and RA Alignment

Center SME, Haylie Schuster, hosted an interactive workshop during the Missouri



Association of Workforce Development's annual convening on [Local Workforce Development Boards: Forging the Future Through Alignment with Registered Apprenticeship](#).

Participants learned about the key components of workforce system alignment with RA, the benefits of aligning workforce systems with RA

programs, and practical strategies and actionable ideas to build or strengthen workforce system integration with RA.



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