

# Explore Apprenticeship Opportunities for Young People

## PROVIDING A FOUNDATION FOR CAREER SUCCESS

Registered Apprenticeship stakeholders—employers, educators, and workforce professionals—across the country are launching apprenticeship opportunities serving young people, ages 16–24. These Registered Apprenticeships combine technical classroom instruction with paid work experience. They provide the foundation for young adults to choose multiple career pathways: enroll in college, begin employment, or choose a combination.

With Registered Apprenticeship opportunities serving young people:

- ▶ Young adults engage in work-based/experiential learning and continue in furthering their education during (dual enrollment) or after high school and/or college.
- ▶ Schools find new ways to engage students, connecting them to career pathways during their secondary and post-secondary education, increasing the potential for career success.
- ▶ Businesses gain access to a talent pipeline of entry-level workers to address talent shortages in the workplace.

Through partnerships with businesses, high schools, community and technical colleges, and other workforce systems, communities around the country can develop Registered Apprenticeship opportunities that make a difference in the lives of young people while supporting economic and workforce development. In 2025, there were 415,560 young people earning and learning as apprentices, a dramatic increase over the past 10 years. The apprentices were particularly concentrated in construction, public administration, and educational services, which provided new opportunities for young people and ways for businesses to recruit new talent.

## ELEMENTS OF REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS SERVING YOUNG PEOPLE

All Effective Registered Apprenticeships serving young people have several key common elements.

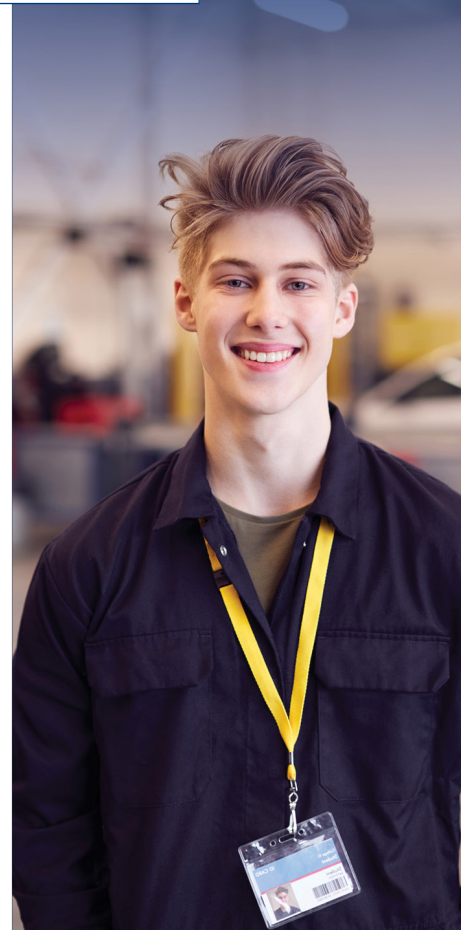
- ▶ Satisfy labor market needs of students/career seekers, businesses, local school districts, and colleges.
- ▶ Address skills matching and individual assessments to promote competencies needed by businesses.
- ▶ Align with the academic and technical standards in secondary and post-secondary education, as well as with portable, nationally recognized credentials and certifications.
- ▶ Provide strong linkages to adult Registered Apprenticeships in the community.

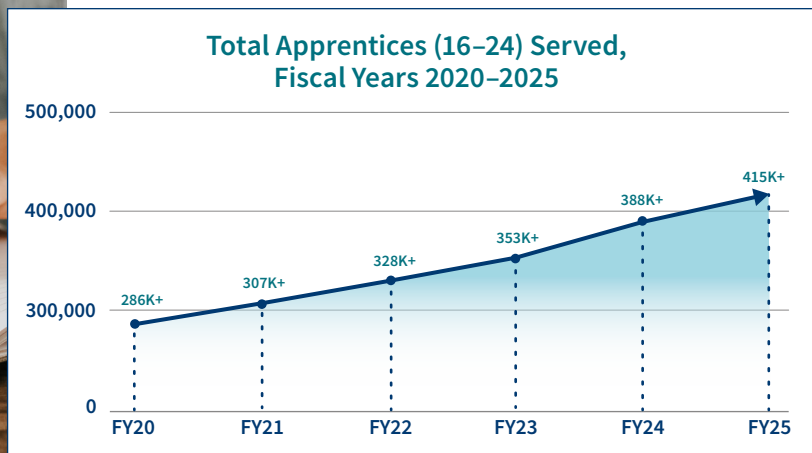


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**415,560**

**Apprentices (16-24)  
Served**





Building on these foundational elements of success, every apprenticeship sponsor has the flexibility to design their apprenticeship to provide effective results.

## COMMON PATHWAYS TO REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Most pathways fall into one of two types of models:

### 1: PRE-APPRENTICESHIPS FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

prepare students to enter a Registered Apprenticeship.

- ▶ Students take courses directly related to the apprenticeship field, in addition to their required high school coursework, which count toward high school graduation.
- ▶ They participate in on-the-job learning activities (beginning at age 16), which can count toward entry into an apprenticeship.
- ▶ Students can apply to a Registered Apprenticeship leading up to or upon high school graduation.

**2: REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS THAT BEGIN IN HIGH SCHOOL, COMMUNITY COLLEGE, OR DUAL ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITIES** allow young people to start their Apprenticeship while still a student.

- ▶ Students become a registered apprentice through an agreement signed by the student, the employer, and, if under 18 years old, parent/guardian.

- ▶ The work portion of the apprenticeship is flexible and is done when school is not in session or through a formal work-study program.
- ▶ Students take courses at their high school and/or community and technical college, in addition to their required high school coursework, which counts toward high school graduation.
- ▶ Students may complete the Registered Apprenticeship during high school or continue after graduation, depending on the apprenticeship's length. For dual enrollment students, the Registered Apprenticeship continues and is completed at the college.

Young people may engage in pre-apprenticeship as an on-ramp to Registered Apprenticeship. They may also access supportive services by entering Registered Apprenticeships that leverage the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act.

For additional resources to help young people learn more about Registered Apprenticeship and learn about the apprenticeship experience, visit our [Apprenticeships for Young People](#). To find an apprenticeship opportunity near you, use our [Apprenticeship Finder](#) tool.

## Explore Registered Apprenticeship Today!

Want to learn more? Visit the U.S. Department of Labor's one-stop source for all things apprenticeship: [www.apprenticeship.gov](http://www.apprenticeship.gov) or email us at [apprenticeship@dol.gov](mailto:apprenticeship@dol.gov).

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