

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
Workforce Programs
Technical Assistance Bulletin 151, Change 1

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Subject: **Benefits of Registered Apprenticeship Programs—Update**

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This Technical Assistance (TA) Bulletin provides Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) with updated information regarding partnering with registered apprenticeship programs (RAPs) to satisfy both employer and individual training needs.

As authorized by Texas Education Code, Chapter 133, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) receives funds from the Texas legislature for RAPs and administers the funds as set forth in TWC Chapter 837 Apprenticeship Training Program rules. However, not all RAPs apply for the Chapter 133 funds.

The US Department of Labor’s (DOL) Office of Apprenticeship (OA) encourages the building and strengthening of partnerships between the registered apprenticeship system and the workforce system. Boards are encouraged to use their local flexibility to supplement RAPs with Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds.

RAPs maintain a proven success record. Apprenticeship is an industry-driven, high-quality career pathway that enables employers to develop and prepare their future workforce to obtain paid work experience, classroom instruction, and a portable, nationally recognized credential. Chapter 133 funds pay only a small portion of the direct training costs associated with RAPs, which may leave the programs lacking funds to provide the training needed at other stages of the process. Boards interested in benefiting from the successful completion rates and wage increases proven to result from RAPs may use WIOA funds to supplement apprenticeship programs, including the programs funded by Chapter 133.

As Boards develop and update their workforce strategies to prioritize in-demand industries and target occupations, TWC encourages Boards to strengthen their partnerships with RAPs in order to maximize the use of available training dollars. Combining a Board’s expertise and access to its local workforce development area (workforce area) with RAPs’ success in delivering training is a winning combination for Boards, employers, and individual Texans.

WIOA expands the automatic eligibility for entry to the statewide Eligible Training Providers List (ETPL) afforded to RAPs; however, RAP sponsors must inform TWC of their interest to be included on Texas’ ETPL. RAP sponsors are not required to submit student-level performance information or be connected to a Board’s target occupation list for initial or continued eligibility determination. RAPs remain eligible for Texas’ ETPL for the duration of their DOL-OA registration.

The following scenarios provide examples of how RAPs may benefit Boards, employers, and individuals.

Board Example

A Board is working to enhance training investment opportunities, so it reviews the in-demand industries and target occupations list and discovers that many of the occupations are apprenticeable.

In pursuit of a stronger relationship with RAPs, the Board contacts [ApprenticeshipTexas](#) staff to explore the possibility of partnering with existing RAP sponsors or developing new RAPs in order to support workforce area demand. An ApprenticeshipTexas staff member provides assistance, and the Board offers workforce development services, sharing its relationships with workforce area employers and partners, as well as distributing WIOA funds to support additional RAPs.

RAPs offer customized training developed to meet an employer's need for a highly trained workforce. Such programs provide Texans with quality training while enabling them to receive competitive pay and embark on a promising career pathway.

The Board recognizes a positive impact on WIOA performance outcomes when RAP participants are supported by WIOA funds.

Employer Example

ABC Plumbing is interested in establishing a RAP in order to recruit and train new plumbers. The Board advises ABC Plumbing to contact [ApprenticeshipTexas](#) for help in becoming a RAP sponsor and provides ABC Plumbing with information on applying for Chapter 133 funds. The Board evaluates the need for any additional funding, including WIOA, to support employer or individual training needs in its workforce area.

Individual Example

Riley is interested in receiving training as a plumber. The Board has an established relationship with several RAPs in its workforce area. A Workforce Solutions Office staff member contacts AAA Plumbing—a RAP with which it has a successful relationship, having previously referred a number of participants to the program and provided it with WIOA funds—confirming that a new training class begins in a few weeks. The Board refers Riley to AAA Plumbing's RAP and provides the assistance needed to enroll.

Employer and Individual Information

Employers interested in participating in a RAP may find information on TWC's website at [Apprenticeship Program for Employers](#) or request information via email at apprenticeshiptexas@twc.texas.gov.

Individuals interested in participating in a RAP may find contact information for their local Board on TWC's website at [Directory of Workforce Solutions Offices & Services](#). Individuals may also email apprenticeship@twc.texas.gov for DOL or local Board assistance, as appropriate.

Employers or individuals seeking to participate in a RAP also may be directed to the following websites:

- The DOL-OA website [ApprenticeshipUSA](#) displays contact information for OA state directors. The information is provided to assist employers interested in developing RAPs and to help Texans locate existing RAPs.
- The DOL-OA [Apprenticeship Jobs Finder](#) provides information about registered apprenticeship jobs and training programs nationwide. Employers and individuals may find contact information for many of the more than 750 RAPs in Texas.

More information is available to both employers and individuals at the DOL-OA [Partner Finder](#), which allows interested parties to search for industry partners, including sponsors, educators, Boards, employers, intermediaries, and apprenticeship offices.

Please distribute this information to appropriate staff. Send inquiries regarding this TA Bulletin to wfpolicy.clarifications@twc.texas.gov.