

Abstract

Arkansas SAEF2 – Base Formula Funding

State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula (Year 2 Base Award)	
Lead Applicant / Organization Name:	Arkansas Department of Commerce, Office of Skills Development
Lead Applicant Entity Type:	State Agency
Lead Applicant City and State:	Little Rock, Arkansas
Project Title: Arkansas SAEF2 (Base Formula Funding)	
Application Type: Year 2 Base Formula Funding	
Funding Amount Requested: \$618,250	
<p>Total Number of apprentices enrolled in RAPs during the life of the grant:</p> <p>There will not be grant supported training participants associated with the Base Formula Funding project.</p> <p>The Arkansas SAEF Base Formula Funding Year 2 project is focused on building the State’s capacity, infrastructure, partnership connections, and outreach efforts to support registered apprenticeship expansion activities across industry sectors. Building on RA expansion industry sector growth areas in manufacturing and educational services from Year 1 and moving into health care and other non-traditional RA impacted sectors in Year 2.</p> <p>Arkansas SAEF2 will build on SAE 2020 grant successes aligning with overarching goals leading to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) National Apprenticeship System Building 2) System Alignment for Apprenticeship Expansion 3) Improving Data Sharing and Data Integrity <p>Additionally, developing strategies to align Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs with state certified pre-apprenticeship trainings and RAP opportunities for broader career pathway options. Also, promoting partnership connections with community based organizations, non-profits, and other entities to increase pre-apprenticeship and RAP access and opportunities for underserved populations.</p>	

Populations to be Served: Arkansas SAEF2 collaborative partnership is inclusive of the WIOA system, education partners, RAP intermediaries, and related workforce development initiatives to expand pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship opportunities for job seekers and career changers that include underemployed, unemployed, dislocated workers, high school students, underserved populations, and others.

List the name of **Required Partner** (*for states with federally-recognized SAAs*): Arkansas is an OA state. The Office of Skills Development (OSD) houses the State Apprenticeship Office which coordinates apprenticeship expansion efforts at the State level.

List the name(s) of **Optional Partners**, as applicable: The Arkansas SAEF2 partnership includes a collaborative ecosystem that has been developed working with the following entities:

<i>Insert name(s)</i> Arkansas Workforce Cabinet/Chief Workforce Officer	<i>Insert type of organization</i> Governor Sanders Executive Order on February 9, 2023 creating the Workforce Cabinet and the Chief Workforce Officer position.
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services (ADWS)	State agency, administrative entity for WIOA Title I and Title III.
<i>Insert name(s)</i> Arkansas State Workforce Board	<i>Insert type of organization</i> Governor appointed State Board
<i>Insert name(s)</i> Arkansas Department of Education	<i>Insert type of organization</i> State agency, administrative entity for K-12 education.
<i>Insert name(s)</i> Arkansas Center for Data Sciences	<i>Insert type of organization</i> Non-profit organization, Industry Intermediary representing IT occupations across sectors, RA Sponsor for growing number of manufacturing RAPs.
<i>Insert name(s)</i> Arkansas Division of Career and Technical Education	<i>Insert type of organization</i> State agency, administrative entity for Perkins Act
Goodwill Industries of Arkansas, Inc.	<i>Insert type of organization</i> Non-profit serving diverse population segments with a mission of changing lives through education, training, and employment.
Arkansas Adult Education	State agency, provides adult learners with resources to improve their academic skills and attain the General Educational Development (GED) credential.

Arkansas Community Colleges	Non-profit organization, representing public two-year community colleges statewide.
<p>Targeted Industry(ies) and/or Occupation(s): Targeted industries from SAEF1 include Manufacturing and Educational Services. In the manufacturing sector, growth occupations include industrial maintenance, machinist (i.e., CNC, PLC, Tool and Die, Robotics), quality control technicians, production technicians, IT related occupations, etc. In the educational services sector, the K-12 Teacher RAP has been implemented working with ADE and partnering educational services cooperatives. For SAEF2, RA expansion into health care and other in-demand workforce sectors offers new opportunities to serve employers and assist individuals with quality jobs.</p>	
<p>Summary of program activities: Broadly defined, “middle skill” jobs are those that require more than a high school diploma but less than a bachelor’s degree. These “middle skill” jobs represent a significant percentage of in-demand jobs with registered apprenticeship pathways. The apprenticeship model is a viable workforce development and career pathway solution, whether connecting with young adults and/or populations with barriers to employment through “certified” pre-apprenticeship opportunities (aligned with RA) for work-ready skill attainment or directly into a registered apprenticeship program. The Arkansas SAEF2 project will scale the adoption of the RAP model utilizing a proven RAP sponsor/industry intermediary strategy to minimize administrative barriers for employers to commit. The WIOA system will be leveraged to engage employers and integrate State certified pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship as an option to meet employer needs.</p> <p>The Arkansas SAEF2 project will also be used to implement and expand the certified pre-apprenticeship alignment with Career and Technical Education Secondary Career Centers as well as leverage the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce Be-Pro-Be-Proud Initiative to educate young adults for career opportunities. The Arkansas SAEF2 project will partner with community colleges and other stakeholders to scale RA opportunities both regionally and statewide.</p>	
<p>Subrecipient Roles: List all subrecipients and the roles (activities) they will fill on the proposed project. Roles should be aligned to proposed workplan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Arkansas Center for Data Sciences (ACDS) – As a continuation of SAEF1, OSD anticipates entering into an agreement with ACDS to increase staff capacity resources to support RA expansion in manufacturing and other in-demand growth industry sectors (e.g., health care, etc.). 2) To be Named Marketing/Communications Provider - As a continuation of SAEF1, OSD anticipates entering into an agreement with a marketing/communications provider to enhance marketing and outreach efforts to engage employers, the talent supply, and business services partners regarding RA benefits and career opportunities. 	
<p>List of credential(s): In the manufacturing sector, industry recognized credentials will be incorporated into RAPs based on participating employer needs. For educational services, Teacher RAP is a pathway to State teacher licensure as recognized by the Arkansas</p>	

Department of Education. In the health care sector, credentials are based on specific occupational areas and participating employer needs.

Public Contact Information

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