

**Attachment A:
Abstract**

Lead Applicant/Organization Name:	North Carolina Business Committee for Education (NCBCE)
Lead Applicant Entity Type:	Non-Profit Intermediary
Lead Applicant City and State:	Raleigh, NC
Select Grant Category:	Category 2: Ensuring Equitable Apprenticeship Pathways and Partnerships Through Pre-Apprenticeship Leading to RAP Enrollment
Project Title:	NC Career Launch
Funding Amount Requested:	\$4 million
Applicant's Geographic Scope of Project:	North Carolina
Number of Apprentices Enrolled in RAPs During Life of the Grant:	1,000 Students Served 650 Youth Pre-Apprentices Registered 425 Youth Pre-Apprentices Completed 300 Registered Apprentices Enrolled
Populations to be Served:	High School students from rural and Justice 40 communities Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Intellectual Developmental Disabilities
Required Partners (Organization Name and Entity Type):	
NC Department of Public Instruction	State K-12 Education Authority, Education Provider
ApprenticeshipNC	State Apprenticeship Agency
NC Community Colleges	Education Provider

Optional Partners (Organization Name and Entity Type):	
Office of the Governor	State Government
NC Department of Commerce, Division of Workforce Solutions	State Government
NC Department of Health and Human Services	State Government
NC DHHS Vocational Rehabilitation Services	State Government
NC Works	State Workforce Board
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers	Labor Union
NC Association of Educators	Trade Association
Center for Energy Workforce Development	Trade Association
Child Care Services Association	Trade Association
Advanced Energy	Trade Association
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	Chamber of Commerce
NC State Cleantech Center	Education Partner
NC A&T University	Education Partner
NC Board of Nursing	Licensing Board
Project Purpose:	
<p>NC Career Launch will create a statewide youth apprenticeship (YA) system to develop and scale registered youth pre-apprenticeship programs for high school students that lead to RAPs in critical sectors, providing a seamless pathway to post-secondary education and a career with family sustaining wages. During the program period, statewide RAP pathways in advanced manufacturing, clean energy, early childhood education, healthcare, and information technology/cybersecurity will be developed, piloted, and scaled. Students will take related instruction through Career and Technical Education (CTE) or dual enrollment at the local community college and participate in work-based learning and on-the-job learning</p>	

with local employers. In addition, students will receive industry recognized, employable credentials. Upon completion of the pre-apprenticeship, students can continue into a RAP and complete their community college degree at no cost through the NC Apprenticeship Tuition Waiver. All pathways developed during the program will have articulation agreements to Associate's Degrees at community colleges and Bachelor's Degrees at a UNC system school, which includes nationally acclaimed research institutions, HBCUs, and liberal arts hubs. The program is designed to address equity gaps in RAPs by providing on-ramps for students who need workforce readiness and skills training, as well as wraparound services to support student success. In addition, the program will pilot RAP pathways for students with autism and intellectual developmental disabilities.

Sub-Recipient Activities:

N/A

List of Credentials to be Awarded:

Journeyworker's Certificate, Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate, Associate Degrees, industry-recognized credentials in clean energy, healthcare, early childhood education, advanced manufacturing, information technology, and cybersecurity. In addition, participants may receive workforce credentials such as OSHA-10, OSHA-10 Healthcare, OSHA-30, and Working Smart.

Summary of Program Activities:

NC Career Launch will use existing models of high-quality youth apprenticeship programs to develop statewide programs in targeted occupations with the NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and ApprenticeshipNC (ANC) to streamline the process for employers, educational institutions, and students. This central-hub approach will provide rural and low wealth communities with needed support and a framework to scale their programs.

Students will receive wraparound services to address barriers to participation such as transportation, books, uniforms, supplies, and testing fees, as well as a bonus upon completion of the youth apprenticeship program. Employer and sponsor partners will receive support to develop RAP pathways beginning in high school, including stipends and training for apprentice mentors, HR, administrative, and onboarding support.

The program will create robust and supported apprenticeship pathways for students with autism spectrum disorder and intellectual developmental disabilities. Students will receive additional support services through NC Vocational Rehabilitation.

Public Contact Information:

Caroline Sullivan, Executive Director
116 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC, 27603
919-814-2000
caroline.sullivan@nc.gov