

Attachment G: Abstract

State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula Funding Opportunity	
Organization Name	North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
Lead Applicant Entity Type	State Education Agency
Lead Applicant City and State	Bismark, North Dakota
Funding Option	Base Funding
Project Title	Expanding Access to Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Programs in North Dakota
Funding Amount Requested	\$389,661
Apprentices Enrolled	182 (including competitive); 20 (base only)
Population(s) to be Served	<p>Direct: Special education and general education paraprofessionals in K-12 schools, with an associate's degree or ~48 credit equivalent. Apprentices are likely to come from positions with Special Education experience and may become certified teachers in Special Education or other high-need certification areas, determined by the district partner.</p> <p>Indirect: 125,000+ students in North Dakota public schools (~90% of ND school districts are rural), 26% of whom identify as students of color</p>
Required Partner	N/A
List the name(s) of Optional Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Barry Dutton, United States Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship, State Director ● ND Department of Career and Technical Education ● North Dakota United ● ND Department of Commerce, Workforce Development Division ● ND Education Standards and Practice Board ● Job Service North Dakota ● North Dakota public school districts ● North Dakota educator preparation providers
Targeted Occupation	K-12 Teacher

Summary of Program Activities

Each of the 125,000+ students who attend a North Dakota public school deserve a high-quality teacher. However, teacher shortages are at critically high levels in North Dakota. Despite these teacher shortages, NDDPI is optimistic, because we believe that apprenticeship programs offer an accessible pathway for more aspiring educators to enter the profession. North Dakota has over 4,000 paraprofessionals, many of whom have a passion for serving Special Education populations or for teaching in general, and many of whom aspire to become certified teachers. However, simply due to financial barriers or inflexible course delivery schedules from universities, they are unable to do so. We aim to use these grant funds to eliminate those barriers.

SAEF1 base and competitive activity created seats for 49 aspiring educators to become teachers for free while getting paid to do so, via the registered apprenticeship model. Still, teacher shortages persist. Acknowledging this urgency, it is even more critical that NDDPI is awarded SAEF2 base funds so that we can administer this quickly expanding program. SAEF2 funds will continue to be used for the following: (1) fund 12-14% of salaries and fringe for 2 personnel at NDDPI who are dedicated to administering and expanding Registered Apprenticeship in Teaching programs and in addition, fund 100% of a temporary employee who serves as the program manager; (2) allow travel for NDDPI leadership to encourage local buy-in and compliance to the apprenticeship model, professional development on apprenticeship initiatives in education for NDDPI apprenticeship staff, as well as highlighting and presenting on grant funding activities; (3) secure ongoing contract with GeoSolutions for data collection and program monitoring; (4) invest in apprenticeship recruitment convenings and other expansion-related initiatives; and (5) provide wraparound support to apprentices to fund licensure testing costs. Especially as NDDPI looks to scale apprenticeship programs, such SAEF2 funds are critical to ensuring high-quality, low-cost programs are accessible for all aspiring educators.

Subrecipient Roles

N/A

List of Credential(s)

North Dakota Initial In-State License (2 Year)

Public Contact Information

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