

IOA INSIGHTS



ISSUE 1 - JANUARY 2025

STATE APPRENTICESHIP AGENCY: MEET THE TEAM

2024 was a transformative year for the Iowa Office of Apprenticeship (IOA). The IOA team evolved into the State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA) with a new and expanded team of 10. We are excited to have a comprehensive team in place, working in a variety of roles to support Registered Apprenticeship (RA) Programs!

Under the leadership of Dane Sulentic, State Apprenticeship Director, the IOA supports the development, management and compliance of RA programs as well as the hundreds of apprentices across Iowa.

The IOA team consists of:

- **Four Apprenticeship Program Coordinators (APCs)**, each with their own individual caseload of sponsors and RA programs for which they will communicate with and provide essential one-on-one support. For a breakdown of the APC coverage around the state, [click here](#) or view the MAP on our IOA website.
- **Two Workforce Program Coordinators**, who oversee and manage the multiple state and federal grants our office provides to sponsors; helping to create and expand Registered Apprenticeship opportunities and offset costs associated with maintaining RA programs.
- **A Work-Based Learning Program Designer**, whose focus is on helping employers build out their Work-Based Learning (WBL) initiatives, which includes [Quality Pre-Apprenticeships](#). This role also serves as a liaison to the Iowa Department of Education.
- **A Program Manager and An Administrative Specialist**, provide oversight and management of the data, projects and systems of our department's operations.

With the growth and expansion of our team, we hope to offer even more opportunities to serve our sponsors in the new year. We are committed to supporting your success, which in turn, helps Iowa fulfill their workforce pipeline!



Governor Reynolds joined with the staff of the Iowa Office of Apprenticeship at the recent Broadlawn Medical Center RA Program news conference.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2025

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) is moving to April! Based on feedback from partners across the country, it was determined the end of April is a better timeframe to celebrate apprenticeship culmination and progress.



For 2025, we will kick off the date change with a single National Apprenticeship Day on **Friday, April 30** and work toward week-long celebrations in years to come! Mark your calendars now for April 30, 2025!

For a recap on the most recent National Apprenticeship Week from November 2024, check out the [@USDOL blog](#) for more information.

JANUARY UPDATE: DANE SULENTIC, STATE APPRENTICESHIP DIRECTOR

What to Expect for 2025 for Apprenticeship

Happy New Year! As we kick off the new year, we have taken time to reflect on how much we've been able to accomplish over the past six months while being a State Apprenticeship Agency. There were a few highlights from our first six successful months:

- Expansion of our team to a total of 10 full-time staff members, focused on managing all aspects of RA across Iowa
- Increase in outreach to previously established RA Sponsors
- Advancing in the development of 108 new RA programs being established in 2024, with over 62 of those since July!
- Implementation of monthly TA support sessions, including New Sponsor Orientations and Monthly (virtual) office hours
- Developing and launching our compliance and monitoring efforts to better support RA Sponsor while maintaining the safety and wellbeing of apprentices.

While we've made significant progress, we hope to continue to be a strong resource for RA Sponsors throughout the state into 2025 by focusing on the following:

1. New Virtual Training and Technical Assistance

- Topics to include but are not limited to: Compliance and Monitoring overview, preparing for Apprenticeship Program Review, Ratio Requirements, RAPIDS maintenance and more!

2. Increased Communications to Active Sponsors

- Look for more communication and updates from our team through a variety of methods including, newsletters, emails, one-on-one technical assistance and in-person site visits.

3. Establishment of the State Apprenticeship Agency Council

4. Data Analysis and Summary of Current Sponsors and Apprentices

As always, the IOA is ready and available to best support your RA program and maintain your workforce pipeline!

We look forward to connecting and learning more about the work of your organization in the months ahead.



APPLICATIONS FOR 84E AND 84F STATE-FUNDED GRANTS NOW OPEN

The IOA is excited to announce the launch of two annual, state-funded grants to support apprenticeship programs:

- **The Iowa Apprenticeship Act (84E)** grant provides financial assistance to sponsors who conduct and maintain an apprenticeship program.
- **The Apprenticeship Training Development Fund (84F)** is a grant allocation of up to \$25,000 per occupation, awarded to sponsors who develop new apprenticeship programs or expand occupations that are considered high-demand occupations.

Applications for both grants are available through [IowaGrants.gov](https://iowagrants.gov) through Friday, January 31, 2025. For more information on the grants, check out the Iowa Office of Apprenticeship Funding page for more specifics on the [Iowa Apprenticeship Act \(84E\)](#) and [Apprenticeship Training Development Fund \(84F\)](#).

The Iowa Office of Apprenticeship will host pre-application webinars in January to help review the eligibility requirements and provide support.

- **Iowa Apprenticeship Act (84E)**
 - [Wednesday, January 22 @ 11:00 AM via Zoom](#)
- **Apprenticeship Training Development Fund (84F)**
 - [Tuesday, January 21 @ 11:00 AM via Zoom](#)



NEW SPONSOR ORIENTATION

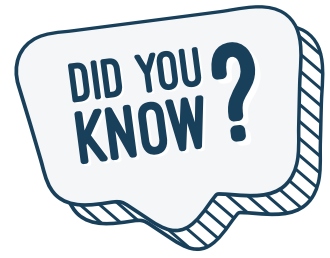
Did you know the Iowa Office of Apprenticeship offers you support as your Registered Apprenticeship Program evolves?

On a monthly basis, the IOA offers a *New Sponsor Orientation*, which reviews all aspects of your RA program, including your responsibilities and the tasks required for optimal success for your organization.

An important part of the orientation includes an overview of how to utilize the Registered Apprenticeship Partners Information Database System (RAPIDS). Maintaining and staying up to date on your apprentice records and program data in RAPIDS is a key component of your RA program.

Below are the dates of our upcoming New Sponsor Orientations in 2025. By clicking on the link for the upcoming session, you'll be prompted to register in advance!

- [Thursday, February 6 @ 11:00 am via Zoom](#)
- [Thursday, March 6 @ 11:00 am via Zoom](#)
- [Thursday, April 3 @ 11:00 am via Zoom](#)



IMPORTANT DATES



IOA New Sponsor Orientation (February)

- [Thursday, February 6 @ 11:00 am via Zoom](#)

IOA February (Virtual) Office Hours

- [Wednesday, February 12 at 11:00 am via Zoom](#)

IOA New Sponsor Orientation (March)

- [Thursday, March 6 @ 11:00 am via Zoom](#)

IOA March (Virtual) Office Hours

- [Wednesday, March 12 @ 11:00 am Via Zoom](#)

IOA DATA

Last Quarter Data (10/01/2024-12/31/2024)

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 36 New Programs | 837 New Apprentices |
| 957 Active Programs | 9,615 Active Apprentices |
| 26 New Occupations Added | 425 Completed |

HAVE A SUCCESS STORY TO SHARE?

IOA is always looking for stories and feedback about how RA is working for you and your apprentices! If interested, use this form to tell us more about how Registered Apprenticeships are working for you and your organization!

IOA will use this information to learn more about what is working well and at times, may reach out to your organization for a more in-depth interview or story spotlight!

[Sponsor Apprenticeship Success Story](#)

REMINDER:

We recommend that all program sponsors update their program information in RAPIDS on a monthly basis; not only to help keep your records up to date, but also to maintain your account access!