



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DES and ARIZONA@WORK Celebrate the Anniversary of the Fitzgerald Act *State Apprenticeship Office to Leverage Nearly \$900,000 Federal Grant to Continue Expanding Registered Apprenticeship Opportunities in Arizona*

Phoenix - (August 16, 2024) Today, the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) and ARIZONA@WORK celebrate the 87th anniversary of the signing of the Fitzgerald Act, also known as the National Apprenticeship Act of 1937. To further the legacy of the Fitzgerald Act, the DES State Apprenticeship Office has greatly expanded registered apprenticeships across the state and industries, and continues to do so with a recent award from the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) of nearly \$900,000.

“Registered apprenticeships are an incredibly effective way for anyone to break into a new field,” said DES Cabinet Executive Officer, Angie Rodgers. “Thanks to this grant, our team can further this longstanding tradition, entering into innovative fields like IT, cybersecurity, semiconductors and healthcare—with more to come.”

In July 2024, USDOL [awarded](#) more than \$39 million in grants to expand and diversify Registered Apprenticeship Programs, [following](#) an award of \$63M in 2023. With its \$900,000 grant, Arizona will continue the expansion efforts it launched last year.

In 2023, the DES State Apprenticeship Office [leveraged](#) the \$678,000 State Apprenticeship Expansion Grant to grow its registered apprenticeship team from 2 to 10, providing better representation across the state for Arizona employers interested in launching a Registered Apprenticeship Program of their own. Arizona’s primary goal is to encourage more employers and industry stakeholders to create and sponsor quality programs, which will ultimately help increase the skills, competencies and engagement of their labor force. This aims to provide job seekers with sustainable career pathways and industry with a much-needed skilled workforce.

Over the years, [the Arizona Apprenticeship Office](#) has significantly expanded the number of registered apprenticeship programs across Arizona. The team plans to use the grant to further expand its reach throughout the state, specifically to rural areas to introduce and increase opportunities for underrepresented populations. Arizona has already been exceeding the national average of apprentice participation among people with disabilities, and we intend to further inclusiveness and diversity across Registered Apprenticeship Programs.

About Registered Apprenticeships

A Registered Apprenticeship provides people with another option for a sustainable career pathway, in addition to traditional college, offering benefits such as a paycheck from day one, on-the-job training, related technical instruction, a nationally recognized credential, and more. There are thousands of apprentices across Arizona, and opportunities are available in almost

every occupation. If you are an aspiring apprentice, [start your apprenticeship journey today](#). If you are an employer looking to launch your own Registered Apprenticeship Program, [we're here to help](#).

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