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# Michigan Registered Apprenticeship Pilot (MRAP)

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## **MRAP Design**

The Michigan Registered Apprenticeship Pilot will provide \$1 million of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to employers/sponsors that register new apprentices with the U.S. Department of Labor - Office of Apprenticeship (USDOL - OA), in partnership with local Michigan Works! Agencies, in any one of over 1000 Registered Apprenticeship Programs.

## **Employer/Sponsor Incentive Award**

Employers/Sponsors may use the funding to off-set some of the cost of wages, occupational equipment or “related technical instruction” provided to apprentices. The maximum amount of wage subsidy or related technical instruction reimbursement to an employer, per apprentice, is \$2,000.

Employers/Sponsors will receive the incentive payments in two parts. One-half of the amount (\$1000) will be provided when USDOL - OA has certified the start of the apprenticeship. Employers/Sponsors are eligible for the second payment (\$1000) after the apprentice has successfully completed six-months training.

## **Related Technical Instruction Award**

Employers/Sponsors may take advantage of the funding to off-set costs associated with related technical instruction for apprentices. The maximum amount of technical instruction assistance is up to \$3,000 per person.

Employers/Sponsors will receive the related technical instruction reimbursement at the beginning of classes, once USDOL - OA verifies and approves the validity of the related technical instruction curriculum as identified by the approved program standards.

## **Apprenticeship Eligibility Provisions**

MRAP funding may be used in conjunction with other funding sources provided the individual meets the applicable funding source eligibility requirements. This will ensure that the most challenged persons in our workforce -- low income individuals, women and minorities, persons with disabilities, and other under represented persons, as well as dislocated workers -- have the opportunity to enter apprenticeships.

Individuals in the MRAP program who meet No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) eligibility requirements are also eligible to receive educational support through the NWLB initiative; up to \$5,000 per year for a two-year period, up to a total of \$10,000. Related technical instruction incentive dollars (\$3,000) will apply toward the NWLB tuition cap of up to \$5,000 per year for two years, for a total of up to \$10,000 per person.

New apprentices registered with the USDOL-OA on or after August 12, 2009 may qualify for benefits under the MRAP.

### **Strategic Alignment**

This endeavor supports the state's efforts to promote training that will lead to career employment in occupations that meet current and emerging industry needs. It is a component of our comprehensive strategy that also includes Apprenticeship Readiness Training. It will help to ensure that Michigan's employers will have access to skilled workers that will allow them to survive and grow in an increasingly competitive global economy. This pilot is one of several programs generated from the Michigan Registered Apprenticeship Action Team, a stakeholder group comprised of the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth (DELEG) staff, other state agency staff, employers, educators, labor representatives, workforce development professionals, journeymen and federal staff, working together to promote the growth of registered apprenticeship in Michigan.

### **Implementation**

The new policy is effective as of June 17, 2010; however, the WIA-ARRA funds for MRAP will expire June 30, 2011.

### **Additional Information**

For more information about MRAP contact the DELEG/Bureau of Workforce Transformation at (517) 241-7337 or USDOL - Office of Apprenticeship at (517) 377-1746.