

AFA Statement – March 6, 2024

On Executive Order on Scaling and Expanding the Use of Registered Apprenticeships in Industries and the Federal Government and Promoting Labor-Management Forums

Today, Apprenticeships for America commends President Biden’s Executive Order on expanding the use of apprenticeship among federal agencies, contractors, and grantees. Highlights of the order include:

- A call for federal agencies to add incentives in grants and contracts for applicants who hire from or utilize registered apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship programs, significantly widening support for apprenticeship beyond traditional domains such as the Department of Labor.
- The establishment of a Registered Apprenticeship Interagency Working Group to be led by the Office of Management and Budget, National Economic Council, and Domestic Policy Council to oversee implementation of the order.
- A call for the Office of Personnel Management to work with federal agencies to identify federal hiring opportunities and changes in hiring and employee development process to support greater use of registered apprenticeship.
- The re-establishment of Labor Management Partnerships to bring agency management and public sector unions together to support and scale registered apprenticeships and address other workforce matters.

We thank the President for his steadfast support in recognizing that registered apprenticeships are critical to ensuring students and workers have access to education and training to access good jobs. And we couldn’t agree more that registered apprenticeship enables employers to access, hire, develop and retain the talent they need.

The President's executive order is an historic step to promote and scale apprenticeships in the United States, both because federal agencies and contractors represent millions of workers and because it signals the value of apprenticeships across a range of occupations including information technology, manufacturing, construction, public safety, health care, and finance.

AFA and its members stand ready to continue working with the administration on the implementation of this order.

Apprenticeships for America represents the nation's apprenticeship community with a membership that includes apprenticeship sponsors, employers, trainers, and advocates. We work to advance public policy, strengthen the practice of apprenticeship, and advance public awareness of the power of apprenticeship to advance economic opportunity and build a competitive workforce. Learn more at [apprenticeshipsforamerica.org](https://www.apprenticeshipsforamerica.org).