

The Registered Apprenticeship Occupations and Standards Center of Excellence

Project Background

The Urban Institute is building a “gold standard” infrastructure of occupational skills frameworks through the [Registered Apprenticeship Occupations and Standards Center of Excellence](#) (AOSC), funded by the US Department of Labor. We seek to accelerate the expansion of high-quality apprenticeships across the US by actively engaging with employers, partners, and coalitions across an array of industries to document occupations and their on-the-job competencies.

Throughout this four-year award (from June 2021 to June 2025), Urban and its partners will create national occupational frameworks, or at least 80 new occupational standards for registered apprenticeship. These standards will become part of a new online collection of standards freely available for public use. Further, Urban will provide technical assistance to those interested in developing and using the standards in their own work. Through virtual trainings, published toolkits, and direct outreach, we seek to raise awareness about the benefits of using these high-quality frameworks to start programs.

About the National Occupational Frameworks

The national occupational frameworks include structured training for on-the-job learning and examples of related instruction. They are consensus based, meaning they are drafted in cooperation with employers, educators, and workforce and training experts. Employers and others can use the frameworks to fast-track the development of their own registered apprenticeships, with the assurance that they are well researched and consistent across the industry.

Opportunities for Partnership

Our team of Urban staff members and experienced partners will work with employers, educators, and other stakeholders to develop standards for use in registered apprenticeship programs and guide users in applying them to their work.

Partnerships are integral to this work. Urban is seeking ways to engage experts and organizations in this work in sectors like advanced manufacturing, energy, health care, information technology, logistics, professional services, and transportation. This is a terrific opportunity to be part of a larger national effort. By partnering with us, you will play a role in expanding apprenticeship in the US, serve as a leader in your industry, and participate in the national conversation on establishing occupational skills standards.

We invite you to partner with us by

1. [suggesting occupational standards that our team should develop](#);
2. connecting us with groups who would like to work with us to develop new occupational standards;
3. reviewing and providing input on draft standards in your area of expertise;
4. sharing the center’s work broadly in your networks through email and social media; and
5. inviting a member of our team to present information about the AOSC work.

Please connect with our team at apprenticeship@urban.org to learn more about how you can contribute to this work. We look forward to working with you.

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