



**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact: Jesse Dougherty** (515) 725-5487  
communications@iwd.iowa.gov

## **Gov. Reynolds Expands Registered Apprenticeship Grants to Grow Health Careers**

DES MOINES, IOWA – Yesterday, Governor Kim Reynolds announced during her Condition of the State address a new \$15 million round of funding targeted at growing Registered Apprenticeship (RA) programs across high-demand fields in health care. The expanded Health Careers Registered Apprenticeship Program will support more programs that help Iowa meet the demand of its health care workforce.

First introduced last year, Iowa's Health Careers pilot supported RA programs that help students pursue nursing pathways. This year's program greatly expands opportunities for health care apprenticeships to include EMTs, RN's, Direct Support Professionals, Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse Specialists, and other critical areas. To receive funding, the RA programs must provide an industry-recognized credential that can also be stackable and used to advance a career in health care. Funding priority and preference will be given to partnerships that involve private or public accredited Iowa high schools.

"This new grant opportunity builds on the success we initiated last year and expands the number of available pathways Iowans can take to gain critical experience in one of the most important sectors of our economy," said Governor Reynolds. "Apprenticeships are working in Iowa and opening important doors. We want to do everything we can to get Iowans engaged in the workforce and set up for meaningful careers."

**Applications for this year's Health Careers Registered Apprenticeship Grant Program will be accepted on [iowaGrants.gov](https://iowagrants.gov) beginning today, January 11. The deadline for applications will be March 9, 2023 at noon.**

- A total of \$15 million is being made available for this funding opportunity. Visit this [link](#) for grant documents and information on how to apply.
- A grants webinar will also take place on January 27 at 11:00 AM to highlight the application process and answer questions. Interested participants are encouraged to join. ([RSVP Link](#))

"Iowa is always looking to open more doorways to new careers, and registered apprenticeships are proving that this is possible even in the highest-demand fields," said Beth Townsend, Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "Research shows that most apprentices will pursue careers in the same fields as their apprenticeships, so we welcome any applicants who are ready to help us expand the number of health care career options in Iowa."

The health care and social assistance industry continues to have the highest number of job openings on IowaWorks.gov (approx. 12,000) and had four out of the top ten job postings in Iowa as of January 11, 2023. The grant program is designed to support the development or expansion of health care RA programs that are sponsored by Iowa-based Nursing Facilities, Residential Care Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities, Hospitals, Home Health Agencies, and Public/Private accredited Iowa High Schools, Community Colleges, and Universities.

Visit this [link](#) for grant documents and information on how to apply.

