NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD SOLE SOURCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

The U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA) intends to award a cooperative agreement to TradesFutures, to support the Scaling Apprenticeship Readiness Across the Building Trades Initiative aimed at expanding pre-apprenticeship programs in construction to reach underrepresented and underserved populations.

The FY 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 117-103) authorized $235,000,000 "to expand opportunities through registered apprenticeship programs only registered under the National Apprenticeship Act", to be available to the Secretary to carry out activities through grants, cooperative agreements, contracts and other arrangements, with states and other appropriate entities." Of that funding, up to $19,821,832 will be awarded to TradesFutures to substantially increase the number of participants from underrepresented populations and underserved communities in registered apprenticeship programs within the construction industry sector. The project will leverage a unique and proven pre-apprenticeship curriculum for construction trades, a dynamic partnership model, and the ability for a national reach for union placement opportunities for program graduates.

The Initiative advances a wide range of the Department's key goals including, engaging organized labor to increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) in Registered Apprenticeship, including through pre-apprenticeship pathways to Registered Apprenticeship; engaging and expand the role of organized labor in Registered Apprenticeship expansion; aligning with and supporting the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA); expand high quality pre-apprenticeship and Registered Apprenticeship programs; and support the Administration's goal of ensuring quality jobs for all workers.

TradesFutures is a nonprofit organization and through partnerships under this cooperative agreements, is uniquely qualified to recruit underrepresented and underserved populations and to deliver pre-apprenticeship on a national scale, and then place participants directly into a registered apprenticeship with national union construction partners. The breadth and scope of TradesFutures and cooperative agreement partners' reach across the United States and their unique and proven apprenticeship readiness curriculum makes them uniquely qualified to place a very large number of participants into Registered Apprenticeship programs and allow those participants to choose from many different occupations.