



American Manufacturing Apprenticeship Incentive Fund – Sponsor FAQ

Who is eligible to apply?

Eligible applicants are:

- Individual registered apprenticeship program sponsors
- Group sponsors or consortia (employer groups, unions, intermediaries, trade associations)

Eligible sponsors must have an established registered apprenticeship program at the time of application.

What apprentices are eligible for incentive funding?

Eligible apprentices include:

- Newly enrolled apprentices
- Incumbent workers being upskilled through enrollment
- Former registered apprentices enrolled in a new advanced manufacturing registered apprenticeship program

All apprentices included in an application must be **enrolled on or after the application submission date**. Apprentices registered prior to submission are not eligible.

How much funding is available?

Sponsors may receive **\$3,500 per apprentice** after the apprentice completes a **90-day retention period**. There are no partial payments.

How are incentive payments distributed?

- Incentive payments are made to sponsors after performance is verified
- Sponsors must provide **at least 90% of funds** to participating employers
- Sponsors may retain up to 10% of the total incentive payment

Are there limits on funding?

During the pilot phase (January 28–July 31, 2026), limits may apply to ensure broad participation:

- Up to **100 apprentices per sponsor or employer partner for sponsors of group programs**
- Group sponsors may apply on behalf of up to **10 employer partners**

These limits may be reevaluated after the pilot year.

When does the application portal open?

The portal opens **January 28, 2026**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until funds are fully distributed.



How long does application review take?

Sponsors should allow up to **15 business days** for review after submitting an intake application.

How will sponsors know if they are approved?

Approved sponsors will receive a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** via DocuSign.

If an application is denied, sponsors will receive written notice explaining the reason(s) and the appeals process.

What are sponsor responsibilities after approval?

Sponsors must:

- Maintain apprentice enrollment for a minimum of 90 days
- Ensure apprentices are properly registered in RAPIDS
- Provide required performance and reporting data
- Comply with all terms outlined in the MOU and applicable federal and state requirements

How and when are payments made?

After submission of an invoice and performance documentation:

- Payments are reviewed and approved by the Arkansas Department of Commerce
- Payments are processed within **10–15 business days**

Who should sponsors contact with questions?

- An extensive list of FAQs can be found in the Resources section [at the bottom of this page](#). If you still have questions, please email OSD.MFGfund@arkansas.gov. Please allow 3-5 business days for a response.



American Manufacturing Apprenticeship Incentive Fund Overview

What Is the American Manufacturing Apprenticeship Incentive Fund?

The American Manufacturing Apprenticeship Incentive Fund is a **\$35.8 million federally funded initiative**, managed by the Arkansas Department of Commerce through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor. Established in response to White House Executive Order 14278, the fund supports the expansion of advanced manufacturing registered apprenticeships nationwide.

How the Incentive Works

The Incentive Fund uses a **pay-for-performance model** that rewards measurable outcomes. **\$3,500 per apprentice** is awarded to eligible sponsors after successful completion of a **90-day retention period**.

- Incentives support:
 - Newly enrolled apprentices
 - Incumbent workers being upskilled through a registered apprenticeship
 - Eligible former apprentices entering a new advanced manufacturing program
- Incentive payments are made to sponsors, who must provide at least 90% of funds to participating employers. This model is designed to reduce barriers for employers and encourage sustainable program growth.

Who Can Apply

Eligible applicants include:

- **Individual registered apprenticeship program sponsors** (single-employer programs)
- **Group sponsors or consortia**, including employer associations, unions, industry intermediaries, and trade associations. Sponsors must have an **established registered apprenticeship program** at the time of application.

Eligible Occupations

The Incentive Fund supports more than **120 advanced manufacturing occupations**, across industries including but not limited to:

- Aerospace and defense
- Automotive manufacturing
- Biotechnology
- Shipbuilding and maritime
- Supply chain and automation
- Nuclear energy
- Semiconductors

Find a complete list under the Resources section [at the bottom of this page](#).



How to Apply

- Applications are accepted on a **rolling basis** until 100% of available funds are distributed
- Apply online at arkansasosd.com/mfgfund

More Information

You can find more information about the American Manufacturing Apprenticeship Incentive Fund at <https://arkansasosd.com/mfgfund/>. Click on the Resources section at the bottom of the page.

If you still have questions after reviewing those Frequently Asked Questions, you can email OSD.MFGfund@arkansas.gov. Please allow 3-5 business days for a response.