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Labor Department Awarding Youth Apprenticeship Funds

PIERRE, S.D. – The Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) is awarding four contracts up to \$50,000 each for the Pathway Partnership Initiative. The goal is to build high quality youth apprenticeship programs.

Proposals must demonstrate leadership and partnership between employers, secondary and post-secondary education institutions, government bodies, and community partners. Outcomes should meet local economic needs and produce equitable outcomes for students, employers, and communities.

“Youth apprenticeships help young people gain the foundational skills, experience, and credentials to thrive in a rapidly changing economy,” said state Labor and Regulation Secretary Marcia Hultman. “I know our businesses are poised to make this vision a reality, and I encourage applications for the Start Today SD Pathway Partnership.”

The funding will support partnerships in designing and implementing strategies to:

- launch, expand, and strengthen youth apprenticeship programs aligned to the Principles for High-Quality Youth Apprenticeship;
- advance system alignment to mainstream youth apprenticeship; and,
- improve understanding and awareness of youth apprenticeship to lay a foundation for sustainable expansion.

Awardees will receive technical assistance from DLR and the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship.

“To accelerate this work, a cohort approach will be used to develop activities,” said Secretary Hultman. “A visible, statewide group of innovators will help expand participation in youth apprenticeship programs and grow awareness of the workforce benefits.”

Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. (CST) on Jan. 17, 2020. Awardees will be announced in March 2020. View the Pathway Partnership Initiative application packet on the State of South Dakota’s posting board at http://bit.ly/pathway_partnership by searching for RFP #1808.