

## Background

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”) created the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund (“CSFRF”), which provides funds to equip state governments with resources to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects. In LB 1014e Section 15, the Nebraska Legislature allocated \$10 million in ARPA funds to NDOL for “worker training programs administered by the Department of Labor and distributed through the recommendation of the Nebraska Worker Training Board pursuant to the guidelines established in section 48-622.03.”

### Program 1: Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grants-Premium Pay

**Who:** Educational employers and childcare providers for premium pay to support the recruitment and retention of (1) educators in the subject areas of mathematics, science, and career and technical education; and (2) childcare and early childhood education providers

**Amount:** \$4 million Total; Grant Amounts Per Worker: lump sum payments of premium pay wages between \$1,250-\$2,500 (depending on length of service) to eligible employees who remain employed as of January 9, 2024.

**Eligibility:** Award recipients will be Nebraska schools, school districts, and licensed childcare and preschool programs. These recipients will commit to provide training and professional development to support the retention of the employees eligible for premium pay.

**Application Deadline:** October 2, 2023

### Program 2: Nursing Recruitment and Retention Grants-Premium Pay

**Who:** Healthcare employers for premium pay to support the recruitment and retention of registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and certified nursing assistants who work in eligible practice settings. The applicant must have experienced challenges hiring or retaining RNs, LPNs, or CNAs due to the COVID-19 pandemic and must commit to provide training and professional development to support retention of workers in eligible positions.

**Amount:** \$4 Million Total; Lump sum payments of premium pay wages of \$2,500 to RNs, \$1,500 to LPNs, and \$1,000 to CNAs in eligible positions who remain employed as of January 9, 2024.

**Eligible practice settings:** Hospitals, nursing homes, long-term care facilities, rehabilitation centers, residential treatment centers, primary care offices, urgent care clinics

**Application Deadline:** October 2, 2023

### Program 3: Workforce Development Grants

**Who:** Businesses, non-profits, educational institutions, and other entities to provide eligible employment-related services to unemployed workers, underemployed workers, and other populations who suffered economic harm due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible services must be provided (1) to members of eligible populations who reside or work in Nebraska at the time of the services; or to (2) to encourage members of eligible populations residing outside Nebraska to join the workforce in Nebraska.

**Amount:** \$2 Million Total

**Eligible employment-related services:** Job training, vocational or job skill-focused education; stipends while in vocational or job skill-focused education; career services and job coaching; job fairs; employer recruitment; hiring incentives; subsidized employment; apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship programs; combined education and on-the-job training programs; assistance with starting a small businesses; support services to accelerate rehiring, such as childcare assistance, transportation assistance, and incentives for newly employed workers.

**Application Deadline:** June 30, 2023

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### Application Process:

Applications for all three grant programs will be available online later this month at [dol.nebraska.gov/ARPA](https://dol.nebraska.gov/ARPA). Detailed grant information is also available on this page. Applicants can direct questions to [ndol.arpa@nebraska.gov](mailto:ndol.arpa@nebraska.gov).

### Unemployment Trust Fund

Funds initially allocated for programs 1-3 that have not been obligated on or before June 1, 2024, will be transferred into the Unemployment Trust Fund (UTF) to replenish the portion of the UTF available for payment of UI benefits to its pre-pandemic level and to support payment of unemployment insurance benefits to unemployed workers. This amount will not exceed \$4,121,577.29.

### Reallocation of Funds

The Nebraska Worker Training Board may reallocate funds among the programs if the amount of approved grant applications received on or before October 2, 2023, in a program category is less than the amount of funds allocated to that program category.