



March 26, 2024

Commissioner Katie S. Dykes  
Department of Energy & Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Commissioner Dykes,

On behalf of the Connecticut Department of Labor (CTDOL), I submit this letter of commitment for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (CT DEEP) *individual* application requesting federal funding from the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Phase II Implementation Grant (EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07). The CTDOL commits to partner with the CT DEEP and the CT Office of Workforce Strategies to explore developing and implement high-quality workforce development activities included in DEEP's application for funding to benefit individuals in low-income and disadvantaged communities, tied to the implementation of the following climate action measures in its application:

- Medium-heavy duty zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) financial incentives program to lower the cost of purchasing medium-heavy duty ZEV vehicles, build charging infrastructure, and improve grid reliability.
- Supplemental funding for Connecticut's Residential Energy Preparation Services (REPS) program and Conservation and Load Management Program (C&LM). The REPS program removes health and safety barriers (asbestos, mold, knob-and-tube wiring, etc.) when these barriers prevent weatherization (such as insulation and air sealing). The C&LM program helps Connecticut businesses and residents become more energy efficient.

As the federally recognized State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA), the CTDOL Office of Apprenticeship Training (CTDOL/OAT) is excited about the opportunity you propose for availing resources to various employer sponsored Registered Apprenticeship programs throughout Connecticut. As the nation faces a critical shortage of skilled workers for upcoming infrastructure and "green-energy" occupations, expanding Registered Apprenticeship and certified Pre-Apprenticeship opportunities offers an effective approach to meet the needs of industry and our citizens in search of high-quality training and good careers.

This project will aim to promote the potential creation of certified pre-apprenticeship programs in concurrence with TEN 23-23 that, for state and federal purposes defines Quality Pre-Apprenticeship, throughout the region leading to enrollment in Registered Apprentice Programs (RAPs) which increases and improves industry engagement, diversity, equity, access, and innovation.



Partnering with CTDOL/OAT will allow the CT DEEP to more effectively perform this project through the following:

1. Providing Technical Assistance (TA) and input on program/curriculum design and suggestions for program improvement alongside our current and newly established RAP employers.
2. Providing input on outreach and recruitment services, training activities, supportive services initiatives, etc. to be carried out by the grantee.
3. Reviewing, and potentially certifying, new or updated Pre-Apprenticeship and RAP proposals at the request of RAP employers.

CTDOL shares the EPA CPRG program's strong commitment to facilitating the generation of high-quality jobs with a diverse, highly skilled workforce and supporting best labor practices as exemplified by the registered apprenticeship programs we administer. CTDOL strongly supports DEEP's application for additional funding and incentives to reduce greenhouse gases and maximize community benefits, particularly through the creation of equitable career pathways and training opportunities. Specifically, this includes the grantee preparing individuals for high-quality, middle-skill career pathways that enable economic mobility, rather than short-term, low-wage jobs.

The CTDOL/OAT looks forward to advising the partnership on the expansion of the Registered Apprenticeship landscape to ensure that participants have an opportunity to receive employer approved, and designed, training that prepares them for long-lasting careers.

If you have any questions about DOL's strong commitment to this effort, please contact us via email at [dol.apprenticeship@ct.gov](mailto:dol.apprenticeship@ct.gov).

Sincerely,

Danté Bartolomeo  
Commissioner