The U.S. Department of Labor is using $100 million dollars of current funds to increase the use of apprenticeships in the workforce. As part of President Obama's charge to Vice President Biden to build a stronger middle class, these competitive grants will allow state partnerships to develop and increase the use of internships that lead to employment.

USDOL suggests that 87 percent of apprentices gain employment after completing their businesses' training program and notes that the average starting wage for apprenticeship graduates is over $50,000.

The American Apprenticeship Grant competition, which is slated to launch fall 2014, will highlight partnerships between business, labor organizations, training providers, community colleges, local and state governments, the workforce system, non-profits and faith-based organizations. The collaborative effort must:

- launch apprenticeship models in new, high-growth fields such as information technology, high-tech services, healthcare and advanced manufacturing;
- align apprenticeships to pathways for further learning and career advancement; and
- scale up apprenticeship models that have proven to be effective.

For more information:
