

Question #1: What Workforce Center programs are currently available that can connect new talent to entry level positions in health care fields?

We have two programs that can be accessed by job seekers to connect to potential employers.

1. WE – Weld County hires the job seeker – pays their workers comp as well. Pay minimum wage or up to 80% of the hourly wage – You provide the training – we pay the employee.
 - Limitations – Driving a vehicle, limit of 29 hours/week, up to 500 hours.
 - Still a job seeker – can leave for another position
 - With Medical positions – some require clinical hours we may have paid for their training online but they need a place to do their clinical hours – this can be a great fit for this
2. OJT – Hire with the intent of permanent employment – Must be full time (at least 32 hours per week and pay at least \$15/hour. Business hires employee, we reimburse them for 50% of the employee wages during the training period (3-6 months depending on the position)

Both programs require the job seeker to qualify for the funding (funding continually changes all the time for these programs)

Question #2: (can be asked as a follow-up to Question #1, unless you prefer I just include it in with my answer to #1): What requirements would employers need to meet to access candidates for work experience and OJT programs through Workforce Centers?

Pretty simple approval process for both programs. Short form to complete for the work experience program. Weld County HR evaluates the position for safety, training – approval is usually completed within 24 hours of submitting the form. For OJT a few more forms to complete that go with the job seeker.

Best thing a business could do to become involved with these programs is to go ahead and get the paperwork completed so they are ready to go when a candidate is available. We sometimes get a reverse referral – Employer sends candidate to us. Can save time in process if the employer is already approved as a worksite of either program.

Question #3: Apprenticeship seems to be a big buzzword. What funding is available through your workforce center for apprenticeships?

Most funding for Apprenticeships has gone to the individual job seeker. The main program out there currently is the IDEA grant. Funds up to \$3200 of costs for students. – Can be for tuition, tools, uniforms supplies

Accelerate Apprenticeship Grant is a relatively new grant that actually funds employers that are not yet involved in an apprenticeship.

- \$5,000 for program and hiring apprentice
- \$2,500 for retaining apprentice for 6 months.
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You can contact me if you have questions about any of the above programs at ayost@weldgov.com