



**National  
Urban League**

*Empowering Communities.  
Changing Lives.*

*In partnership with...*



## **Partner with the Urban Apprenticeship Jobs Program**

**Be Part of a Movement:  
Help Connect the People Who Need Jobs with Companies That Need People**

Did you know that by 2020, there will be at least 6.6 million jobs available in the U.S., but there not enough qualified workers to fill them? In growing industries such as the ICT sector, employers are facing a looming workforce shortage due to a lack of skilled workers. In many communities, there are underrepresented populations – women, people of color, and disabled individuals – searching for work in regions that have unemployment rates far exceeding the national average. The National Urban League (NUL), in partnership with the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) and the Wireless Infrastructure Association (WIA), is bridging the wealth, skills, and employment gaps by exposing underrepresented populations to middle-skill jobs through apprenticeships and job-readiness programs that support and strengthen America's most important industries. Branded as NUL's Urban Apprenticeship Jobs Program (UAJP), UAJP is designed to help underrepresented workers acquire the skills they need to fill these workforce gaps, and matching them to the employers who need to fill job openings.

### **A Long-Standing Tradition in the U.S. and a New Commitment from the White House and Department of Labor.**

- In 1937, U.S. leaders formalized apprenticeships through the National Apprenticeship Act.
- Today, there are nearly half a million registered apprentices in training in American industry annually.
- Both the Obama and Trump Administrations have set goals to increase the number of registered apprentices to 1 million.
- So far, \$200 million has been allocated through the U.S. Department of Labor with the goal of increasing, promoting, and diversifying Registered Apprenticeship programs.

### **Apprenticeships provide numerous benefits to companies and individuals. They:**

- Provide paid, relevant work experience and opportunities to develop skills that employers value.
- Increase employee retention and reduce turnover.
- Allow apprentices to access “earn while you learn” pathways for long-term careers in expanding industries.

### **What Is Opportunity Partnership, and How Can You Contribute?**

The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship (OA) has awarded “equity contracts” to develop national and regional “opportunity partnerships” consisting of apprenticeship sponsors, industry groups, communities, and regions committed to increasing apprenticeship opportunities for underrepresented populations, including gender, racial, ethnic, and other demographic diversity and inclusion efforts; and equally important, to disseminate these approaches to the broader apprenticeship community.

NUL's Wireless Infrastructure Apprenticeship Access Initiative (WIAAI Consortium) with its partners MMTC and WIA, invites companies and community organizations to help us expand and diversify registered apprenticeship programs, bridge the skills and employment gaps, and get companies the employees they need by joining us in an opportunity partnership.

In addition to connecting employers with workers who are ready, willing, and able to fill critical job openings, the Consortium offers trainings and technical assistance materials to help companies meet and achieve their diversity and inclusion goals.

Learn more at: [www.nulapprenticeships.org](http://www.nulapprenticeships.org)

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