



STATE of NEBRASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LINCOLN
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25-15

Nebraska State Office of Registered Apprenticeship

WHEREAS, Article IV-6 of the Nebraska State Constitution charges the Governor to take care that Nebraska's laws be faithfully executed, and the affairs of the state be efficiently and economically administered; and

WHEREAS, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-401 authorizes the Governor, through the Nebraska Department of Labor, to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of wage earners, improve working conditions, and advance opportunities for profitable employment; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States issued a Presidential executive order on April 23, 2025, entitled "*Preparing Americans for High-Paying Skilled Trade Jobs of the Future*" instructing the Secretaries of Labor, Commerce and Education to review all federal workforce development programs and develop a strategy to integrate systems and realign resources to address critical workforce needs; and

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2025, the United States Departments of Labor, Commerce, and Education jointly released a comprehensive plan entitled "*America's Talent Strategy: Building the Workforce for the Golden Age*" which addresses the workforce needs of American companies, integrates existing workforce systems to maximize efficiency and effectiveness, and provides accountability for workforce training programs; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska administers numerous workforce development programs across multiple agencies and partners, yet lacks a unified strategic framework to guide policy decisions; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of this administration to ensure that Nebraska's workforce development efforts are informed, efficient, and effective in achieving their desired outcomes, and are aligned with Nebraska's changing workforce needs; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska recognizes that growing the state depends on having a well-trained, educated workforce which requires creating meaningful career opportunities so that all Nebraskans, including our youth, can thrive and live the good life through clear pathways to successful careers; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska recognizes apprenticeship programs contribute significantly to workforce development and the expansion of registered apprenticeships in the state aligns with Nebraska's changing workforce needs by supporting future economic growth and ensuring all Nebraskans have access to training and great careers.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Pillen, Governor of the State of Nebraska, under and pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Nebraska, do hereby order and direct the following that, to the fullest extent permitted by law:

1. The Nebraska Department of Labor to launch the Good Life, Great Careers Initiative. The Good Life, Great Careers Initiative should be focused on developing a quality, skilled workforce in Nebraska.
2. The Good Life, Great Careers Initiative shall focus on connecting Nebraskans to Nebraska careers. Workforce development grants awarded by the Commissioner of Labor under LB265 shall align with the priorities of the Good Life, Great Careers Initiative.
3. As part of the Good Life, Great Careers Initiative, the Nebraska Department of Labor shall create the Office of Registered Apprenticeship. The Office of Registered Apprenticeship shall be integrated into the Nebraska Department of Labor, which shall serve as the State's coordinating body for all matters related to registered apprenticeship programs within the State of Nebraska.
4. The Office of Registered Apprenticeship shall:
 - Develop and expand registered apprenticeship programs to align with the State of Nebraska's workforce needs, with a primary focus on manufacturing, healthcare, transportation, construction, the bioeconomy, and other high-demand industries.
 - Take any and all steps necessary to be recognized by the United States Department of Labor to become a State Apprenticeship Agency.
 - Prepare and submit to the United States Department of Labor an application for recognizing the State of Nebraska as a State Apprenticeship Agency.
 - Coordinate with existing workforce partners under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to integrate apprenticeship programs as a core workforce development strategy.
5. The Good Life, Great Careers Initiative shall aim to add 6,000 new registered active apprentices in Nebraska by December 31, 2030.
6. As part of the Good Life, Great Careers Initiative, the Nebraska Department of Labor shall lead a comprehensive inventory and assessment of workforce development programs administered by the State of Nebraska and, in coordination with this office shall develop a comprehensive, strategic workforce development plan that addresses Nebraska's critical workforce needs and supports future economic growth for the state.
7. To the fullest extent of the law, all departments and agencies of the state shall cooperate with the Nebraska Department of Labor and the Office of Registered Apprenticeship in advancing registered apprenticeship programs and the State of Nebraska's transition to a State Apprenticeship Agency state. All departments and agencies of the state shall further cooperate with the Nebraska Department of Labor in their inventory, review, and assessment of Nebraska's various workforce development programs.

8. If any provision of this Order, or the application of any provision to any individual or circumstance, is held to be invalid, the remainder of this Order and the application of its other provisions to any other individuals or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

I HEREBY DECLARE this Executive Order to take effect immediately.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed on this 14 day of October, 2025.



Attest:

Jim Pillen, Governor
State of Nebraska

Robert Evnen, Secretary of State
State of Nebraska