

TRADEFUTURES

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TradesFutures Releases New National Report Highlighting Promising Practices to Strengthen Placement Pathways into Union Apprenticeships

Washington, D.C. — *April 29, 2026* — TradesFutures released *Scaling Placement Pathways: Promising Practices from Apprenticeship Readiness Programs*, a **first-of-its-kind** national analysis identifying the most effective strategies for placing graduates of Apprenticeship Readiness Programs (ARPs) into Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs) and quality construction careers.

As the construction industry faces unprecedented demand driven by historic federal infrastructure investments and an aging workforce, ARPs have become a critical gateway for thousands of jobseekers, particularly those from underrepresented communities, to access union apprenticeship opportunities. In 2025 alone, more than 200 ARPs supported by TradesFutures served over 7,700 participants across 34 states.

The new report draws on historical program data, surveys of ARPs nationwide, interviews with union leaders, employers, and program administrators, and a review of workforce development literature. It identifies five core practices that consistently improve placement outcomes: **strong union engagement, industry engagement, managed enrollment, participant readiness & support and demand-side strategy.**

"Everyone deserves the chance to build a secure future, and this report shows exactly what it takes to make that possible," said **Marina Zhavoronkova**, Executive Director of TradesFutures. "When programs are resourced to build strong partnerships, support participants, and align with local labor demand, ARP graduates can access life-changing careers in the skilled trades."

The report also outlines recommendations for philanthropic, public, and private funders to strengthen ARP capacity, including investments in case management, supportive services, data systems, and demand-side coordination.

This work was made possible through support from the [Families and Workers Fund](#) and informed by TradesFutures' cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor, *Scaling Apprenticeship Readiness Across the Building Trades*.

The full report is available at: [Scaling Placement Pathways: Promising Practices from Apprenticeship Readiness Programs](#)

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About TradesFutures: TradesFutures is a non-profit corporation organized to develop, promote, and improve Apprenticeship Readiness Programs ("ARPs"). ARPs are educational programs that provide students with the fundamental skills and knowledge necessary to choose, obtain, and succeed in a formal, registered apprenticeship in the construction industry. TradesFutures is also dedicated to assisting underserved communities in establishing and maintaining careers in the construction industry. Learn more about TradesFutures and its work to develop a more accessible quality construction workforce at tradesfutures.org