

Rural Apprenticeship Innovation for a Stronger Economy (RAISE) Scoring Rubric

The following are the review criteria the review team will use to score each grant application. Each grant will be rated based on the criteria listed and given a score out of one hundred.

	Exemplary	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Needs Improvement	Insufficient Evidence
(1) Overall Program Plan & Long-term Sustainability (25 points possible)	<p>Program plan is well-developed, highly executable, and demonstrates strong, sustainable integration with business and industry in support of high-wage, high-demand occupations in rural Kansas.</p> <p>(22-25 Points)</p>	<p>Provides a solid program plan with clear rural industry engagement and defined strategies to recruit and retain participants for high-wage, high-demand occupations. Sustainability planning is evident and feasible.</p> <p>(17-21 points)</p>	<p>Outlines a basic program plan with some rural employer involvement. Recruitment, retention, and sustainability strategies are described but lack detail or full alignment with high-wage, high-demand rural occupations.</p> <p>(12-16 Points)</p>	<p>Program plan lacks sufficient detail on execution, rural employer engagement, or sustainability. Alignment with high-wage, high-demand occupations in rural Kansas is unclear.</p> <p>(6-11 Points)</p>	<p>Does not clearly describe a program plan or demonstrate support for recruitment and retention in high-wage, high-demand rural occupations, or the question is not addressed.</p> <p>(0-5 Points)</p>
(2) Rural Service Area (10 points)	<p>Clearly identifies eligible counties (population under 50,000) and provides a detailed, actionable plan to ensure all grant-funded activities and expenditures</p>	<p>Presents a clear plan with moderate detail demonstrating how proposed activities and funds will remain within eligible rural counties. Counties are identified and</p>	<p>Lists counties of operation and provides a basic explanation of how activities will occur in eligible rural areas, though verification or monitoring</p>	<p>Outlines a partial or unclear plan for serving eligible rural areas. County eligibility, compliance processes, or geographic scope are insufficiently explained.</p>	<p>Does not list counties or fails to demonstrate eligibility or compliance or the question is not answered.</p>

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	occur within eligible rural service areas. Includes defined processes to verify and document compliance. (10 points)	population eligibility is acknowledged. (9 Points)	processes lack specificity. (8 points)	(6-7 Points)	(0-5 Points)
(3) Apprenticeship Growth Plan in Rural Kansas (20 points)	Established programs show a clear plan to increase enrollment by at least 10% within 12 months; new programs plan to enroll at least five apprentices within 12 months. Includes defined timelines, employer engagement tied to enrollment, and a clear explanation of how grant funds will support these outcomes. (17-20 Points)	Outlines a feasible plan to reach either the 10% enrollment increase or five new apprentices within 12 months. Some targets, timelines, or strategies may be general, but the plan demonstrates a reasonable path to measurable growth. (13-16 Points)	Provides a basic plan for enrollment growth, but targets or timelines are vague, or the connection between grant funding and achieving the 10% increase or five apprentices is not fully explained. (9-12 Points)	Describes a goal for increasing enrollment but does not clarify whether the program will meet the 10% or five-apprentice threshold or lacks specific strategies to achieve measurable growth. (5-8 Points)	Does not explain how grant funding will increase apprenticeship enrollment or fails to provide measurable targets. Or question not answered. (0-4 Points)

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<p>(4) Capacity (10 points)</p>	<p>Provides detailed descriptions of prior grants of similar scope, including program outcomes, and achievement of objectives. Demonstrates strong grant management practices, no audit or compliance issues, and clear organizational capacity to meet proposed objectives.</p> <p>(10 Points)</p>	<p>Describes relevant prior grants with general outcomes and fund use. Demonstrates adequate grant management experience or provides a clear explanation of organizational capacity if no prior grants exist.</p> <p>(9 Points)</p>	<p>Provides limited information on prior grants, outcomes, or fund expenditure, or offers a basic explanation of organizational capacity with minimal supporting detail.</p> <p>(8 Points)</p>	<p>Provides minimal, unclear, or incomplete information about prior grants or organizational capacity. Ability to manage funds or meet objectives is uncertain.</p> <p>(6-7)</p>	<p>The application lacks the necessary information to assess organizational capacity or past grant performance. More detail is required to evaluate readiness and growth potential.</p> <p>(0-5)</p>
<p>(5) Budget Narrative & Sustainability (20 points)</p>	<p>Budget narrative is detailed, realistic, and fully aligned with project goals. It includes a clear use of funds, targeted apprentice numbers, defined occupations, and demonstrates strong integration and long-term sustainability.</p>	<p>Budget narrative is clear, includes most required elements, and shows reasonable integration with existing operations and potential for sustainability.</p> <p>(13-16 points)</p>	<p>Provides a basic budget narrative and includes cost estimates, but lacks clarity, detail, or strong connection to sustainability.</p> <p>(9-12 points)</p>	<p>Budget narrative is vague, lacks clear connection to program operations or sustainability, and/or does not include specific apprentice targets or occupations.</p> <p>(5-8 points)</p>	<p>Budget narrative is missing, incomplete, or lacks required elements. Or question not answered.</p> <p>(0-4 points)</p>

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	(17-20 points)				
(6) Matching Funds (15 points)	<p>Budget includes all required information, clearly identifies a 1:1 match of grant funds, and provides a detailed, credible narrative explaining how the match will be met and sustained.</p> <p>(13-15 points)</p>	<p>Identifies matching sources and provides a basic explanation of how the match will be met, with general budget alignment.</p> <p>(10-12 points)</p>	<p>Budget contains moderate information, but match amount is minimal, unclear, or insufficiently documented.</p> <p>(7-9 points)</p>	<p>Provides limited or unclear information on matching sources, allocation, or budget alignment.</p> <p>(4-6 points)</p>	<p>Budget contains minimal information, with no narrative or matching funds identified. Or questions not answered.</p> <p>(0-3 Points)</p>
Total: 100 Points					