



# IRWA APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Idaho Rural Water Association has dedicated time and resources to develop an efficient apprenticeship program so apprentices can, through a systematic program of related instruction and on-the-job learning, become a well-qualified System Operations Specialist. The degree of success IRWA will have with this apprenticeship program will depend entirely upon the willingness of its local water/wastewater systems to cooperate in achieving this common goal. Quality training has always been a top priority for IRWA.

### WHAT IS REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP?

- Registered Apprenticeship is a formal system of employee training that combines on-the-job training with related technical instruction. It is designed to produce craft-workers that are fully competent in all aspects of an occupation, including: knowledge, skill and proficiency on the job.

### WHAT ARE APPRENTICESHIP STANDARDS?

- Apprenticeship Standards - The document that is the “formation” document for the registered apprenticeship program. They contain the parameters of the program and ensure that all requirements are met. They also lay out the program entry requirements, the On-the Job Training requirements and the Related Training Curriculum requirements.

### WHAT OCCUPATIONS ARE LISTED IN THE APPRENTICESHIP STANDARDS?

- Water Systems Operations Specialist** and **Wastewater Systems Operations Specialist** - The term of the apprenticeship is two (2) years with an OJT attainment of approximately 3200 - 4000 hours, supplemented by a minimum recommended hour of related instruction.

### WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL SYSTEM?

- Local systems will review the IRWA Apprenticeship Standards. If interested in participating in the program an employer participation agreement is required to be completed and sent to the IRWA for approval. The required documents for recording apprentice’s on-the-job training will be provided along with access to the USDOL electronic website for tracking apprentices.

### WHAT ROLE DOES GOVERNMENT PLAY IN THE PROGRAM?

- The Office of Apprenticeship is a service agency of the United States Department of Labor that stimulates and assists industry in the development, expansion, and improvement of apprenticeship and training programs whose principal functions is to encourage the establishment of sound apprenticeship and training programs and to provide technical assistance to industry in setting up such programs.

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