



# FACTSHEET

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## Telecommunications Industry Registered Apprenticeship Program (TIRAP)

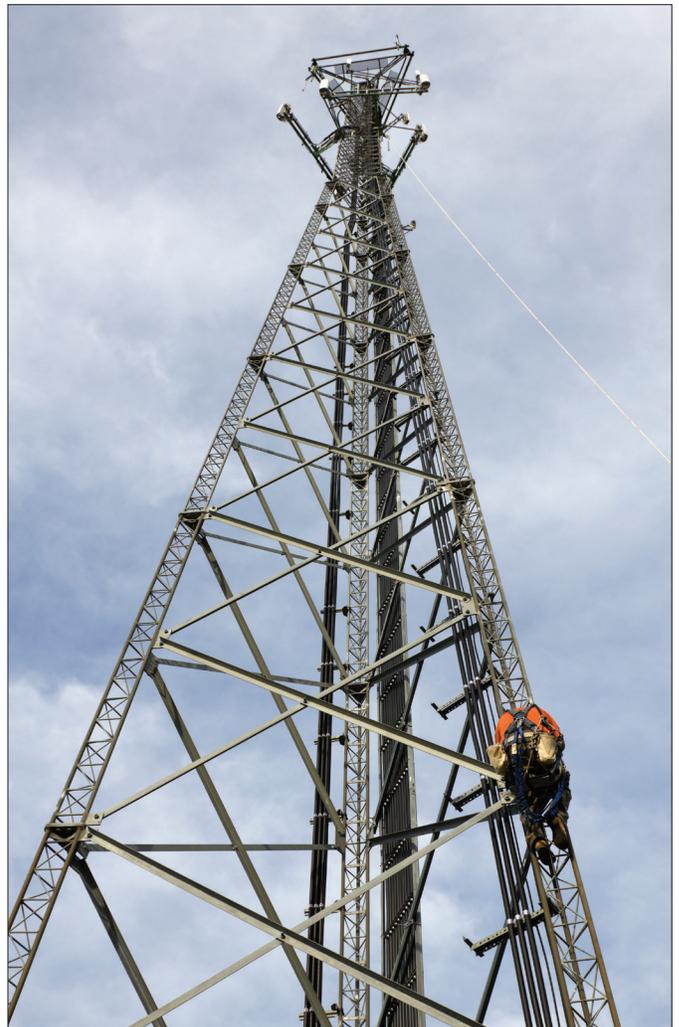
The Telecommunications Industry Registered Apprenticeship Program (TIRAP) was initiated with the cell tower industry (in close association with the National Association of Tower Erectors (NATE)) in 2012 to develop a high-performance training program in the cell tower industry to ensure that workers, new and incumbent, would be highly trained and performing with the best safety procedures and practices possible.

TIRAP is a competency-based apprenticeship program for entry-level occupations in the cell tower industry, including Tower Technician, which encompasses a series of competencies to ensure quality and safety. Industry experts developed the Registered Apprenticeship competencies that are necessary and required for the successful implementation and completion of work tasks within the Tower Technician occupation. With strong safety components, coupled with training reinforcement, the TIRAP program will lead the industry to ensure OSHA-level safety standards. Lastly, the program is adaptable for various companies within the cell tower industry to train their workers and customize to its needs.

The TIRAP Board was also developed, which is composed of members of the industry, companies, the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and other organizations for the purpose of providing training and instructional direction for the cell tower industry. Both TIRAP and NATE are aligned to ensure the quality of the work, and standards and training are sufficient for a safe working environment for all workers in the industry.

The signing of TIRAP symbolizes the commitment of the telecommunications industry, the U.S. Department of Labor (Occupational Safety and Health Administration

and the Office of Apprenticeship) and the Federal Communications Commission to improve the quality of service, and to provide safety and training to the workers in the industry.



## ***Getting Started with TIRAP (Telecommunications Industry Registered Apprenticeship Program)***

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The Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship is additionally announcing the availability of companies/organizations within this industry to sign up for the Telecommunications Industry Registered Apprenticeship program. The registration process includes the following:

1. A set of standards that outline the specifics of the apprenticeship training program;
2. An agreement between the apprentice and the employer;
3. A framework for the structure and operation of the program, including trainers/mentors/program oversight within a particular industry organization;
4. Instructions on the use of training materials;
5. Designated training materials
6. A designated DOL staff person responsible for the interactions
7. The framework for the related instruction will be provided either via in-house training or through a community college as specified by each particular employer/organization.
8. Long term occupations are currently being developed and will be incorporated into the full Registered Apprenticeship program

Those interested in participating in this new innovative and exciting program should contact any of the following individuals for immediate sign up:

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