

UpSkill Overview

WHAT

South Dakota received Education Stabilization Funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The Board of Technical Education (BoTE) was provided funding through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund to develop and cover a portion of tuition for up to 18 credit hours leading to high-quality certificates for Dislocated Workers whose jobs were impacted by COVID-19.

WHO

DLR is partnering with BoTE to pay for the remaining cost per credit for participants eligible for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) National Emergency Dislocated Worker Grant or the WIOA Dislocated Worker grant.

HOW

BoTE has approved 22 online UpSkill certificates. The certificates are aligned with labor market demands and articulate into Associate of Applied Science and Bachelor's Degree programs. Virtual delivery methods will allow participants throughout the state access to services and instruction regardless of the ongoing impact of COVID-19. While it is uncertain the response we will receive, we anticipate serving approximately 125 students.

NEXT STEPS

We are asking you to advise individuals who have applied for or are determined eligible for Reemployment Assistance and interested in these limited certificate slots to apply **today**.

The UpSkill website with available programs and contact information for the technical colleges can be found at sdupskill.com. Questions beyond those below can be directed to upskill@state.sd.us.

UpSkill Q & A

What is the time frame?

Some classes start as early as August 17; interested parties are encouraged to act quickly in applying for UpSkill programs.

How does an individual apply?

Individuals must complete the application to the technical college offering an approved certificate of interest. After applying, their information will be forwarded to DLR for final eligibility to be determined.

Who can apply?

Anyone who has applied for Reemployment Assistance for reasons related to COVID-19 can apply for UpSkill.

What happens after the individual applies?

A DLR specialist will reach out with the next steps.

Who is eligible?

DLR will work with the individual to determine if they are eligible. Participants must be authorized to work in the United States, be eligible for Reemployment Assistance, and meet eligibility as a Dislocated Worker.

What if the individual applied, but hasn't been determined eligible for Reemployment Assistance?

They should apply with the technical college and follow the process. DLR will look closer at their eligibility determination when processing the UpSkill application.

What is the cost?

Individuals who are eligible for UpSkill will receive 100% tuition assistance at no cost to them.

Is there assistance for associated training costs?

Each participant will receive a one-time \$600 campus bookstore credit which can be used for education related expenses, such as books or laptops.

What benefits are available?

Besides tuition assistance, participants can expect individual case management, resume assistance, interview preparation, and job search assistance.

Will the individual lose unemployment benefits if they attend school?

This is determined by the Reemployment Assistance Division on an individual basis. We encourage individuals to apply. Just *applying* for UpSkill will not cause them to lose eligibility for unemployment benefits.