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**National Rural Water Association**



# National Rural Water Association Apprenticeship Program

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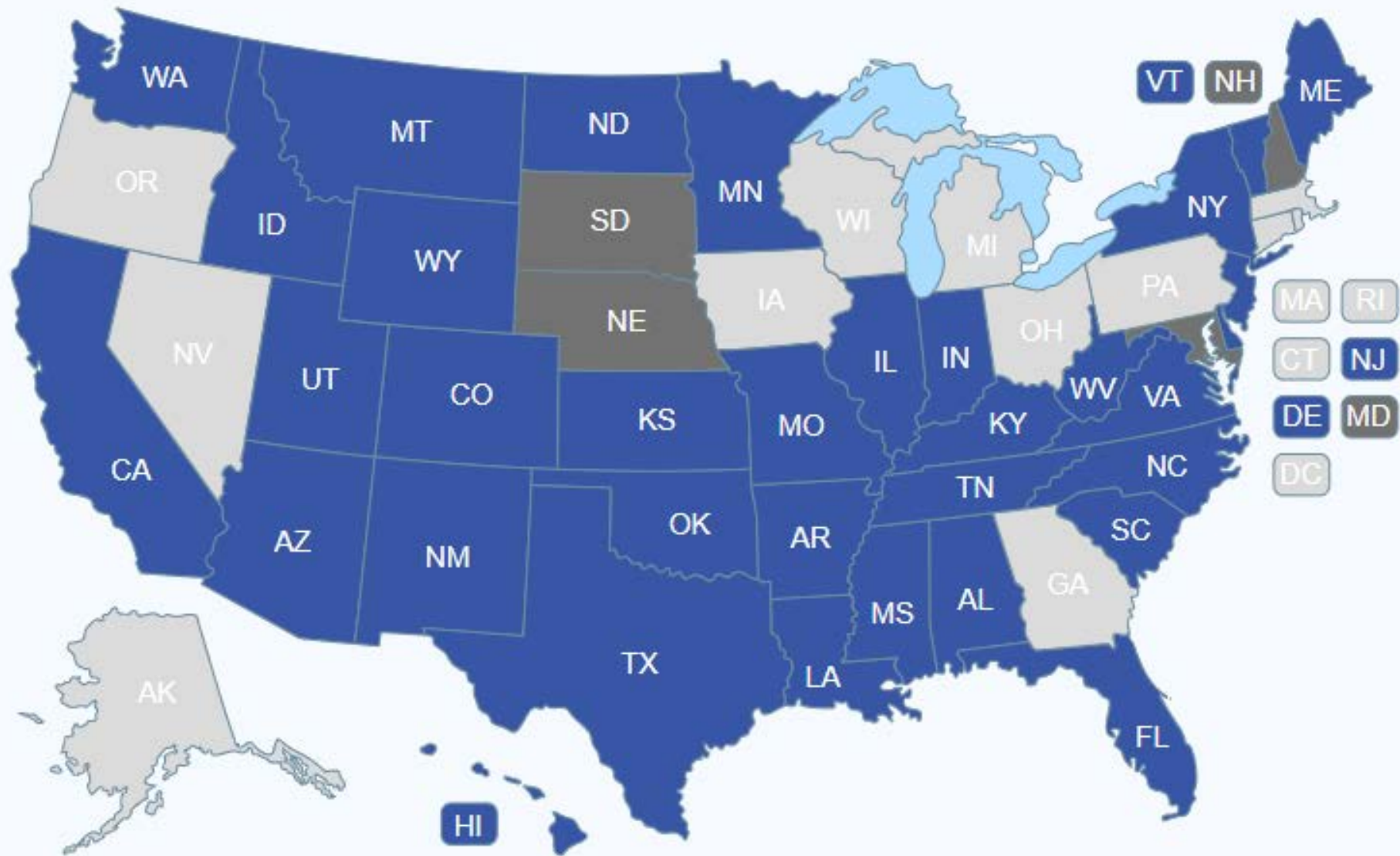
- 50 State Rural Water Associations
- 31,000 water and wastewater system members
- Advocate to Congress annually for State Revolving Funds
- EPA SDWA and CWA Training and Technical Assistance
- USDA Circuit Rider and Source Water Protection
- DOL Registered Apprenticeship Programs for Water and Wastewater System Operators
  - nationally recognized, federally sanctioned, and industry-led to address shortages of qualified drinking water and wastewater operation professionals that maintain the safe delivery of water and sanitation every second of every day

# Why? The Waning Water Industry Workforce

- More than 90% of the U.S. is being serviced by small and rural utilities
- Employment data indicates up to 50% of this workforce will leave the water industry within the next 10 years
- 2017 Internal Survey Results: Urgent Action Needed Now!

# National Guideline Standards of Apprenticeship

- Water System Operations Specialists
- Wastewater Operations Specialists
- Registered Apprenticeships approved by U.S. Dept. of Labor Office of Apprenticeship Administrator in 2017
- Two-year program
- 4,000 hours of on-the-job training
  - one-to-one mentor to apprentice ratio
- 288 hours of related technical instruction
- Increasing wage schedule suggested every six months
- “Earn while you learn”



Map Key:

Approved

In Process

No Activity

# Work Process Schedule

Apprenticeship Occupation

Water System Operation Specialist

## OJT Work Processes - Assignment and Hours

✓ WORK PROCESS	HOURS REQUIRED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. System Operations, Maintenance & Repair	1920
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. Laboratory Operations (Sampling, Testing, Analysis & Process Control)	960
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. Tools and Equipment Operation, Care & Maintenance	440
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D. Safety, Logistics, Reports and Supervision	680
TOTAL HOURS	4000

# NRWA Apprenticeship Program Expansion

As of April 19, 2022: 422 Active Apprentices, 46 Completed Apprentices

	<u>January 2019</u>	<u>January 2020</u>	<u>January 2021</u>	<u>January 2022</u>
Approved State Registered Apprenticeship Programs	5	22	31	34
Participating Employers (Systems)	27	82	184	350
Registered Apprentices	30	87	257	375



How can you support the NRWA  
Apprenticeship Program?

**Contact your State Rural Water Association!**

**Michael Preston**

**NRWA Analyst**

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