ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- EVENTS
- OPPORTUNITIES

# DBE NEWSLETTER

Tuesday | Sept. 16, 2025

## $2 million in BuildItAZ grants now available to registered apprenticeship programs to continue increasing the number of apprentices

**Arizona's construction and skilled trades pipeline receives third boost from apprentice initiative as it doubles number of registered apprentices across state.**

The Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), investing another **$2 million in federal capacity-building grants** to expand high-quality registered apprenticeships across the state through the BuildItAZ Apprenticeship Initiative. This effort aims to **double the number of registered construction and trades apprentices by the end of 2026**.

This is the third round of grants within Governor Hobbs multifaceted BuildItAZ Apprenticeship Initiative (BuildItAZ) connecting Arizonans to industry-led, construction career pathways. Today's $2 million in federal workforce grants, along with $1,650,000 in BuildItAZ grants previously awarded, are focused on helping eligible apprenticeship programs:

- Increase capacity through instructors, equipment and facility expansion
- Recruit and retain apprentices
- Provide wrap-around supports like child care, transportation and tools
- Expand access to pre-apprenticeship programs connected to registered apprenticeships

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BUILD IT AZ

Stay on their radar: how subcontractors can stay top-of-mind with prime contractors

ADOT seeks input on plan for nine new EV charging corridors

Construction input prices up 0.4% in July

## NEWLY CERTIFIED DBE FIRMS

Congratulations on your certification! To learn more about the resources available to you, connect with our DBE Supportive Services team today!

- **3-D Masonry LLC**
- **C.B. Davis Co, LLC**
- **DX International, LLC**
- **First & Luxe**
- **From Heaven to Earth Desserts**
- **Galileo Group PLLC**
- **Lead at Any Level, LLC**
- **Mobility Matrix, LLC**
- **The Street Plans Collaborative, Inc.**
- **TRU BEVERAGES LLC**
- **Vera Vara LLC**

## $2 million in BuildItAZ grants now available to registered apprenticeship programs to continue increasing the number of apprentices (Cont'd)

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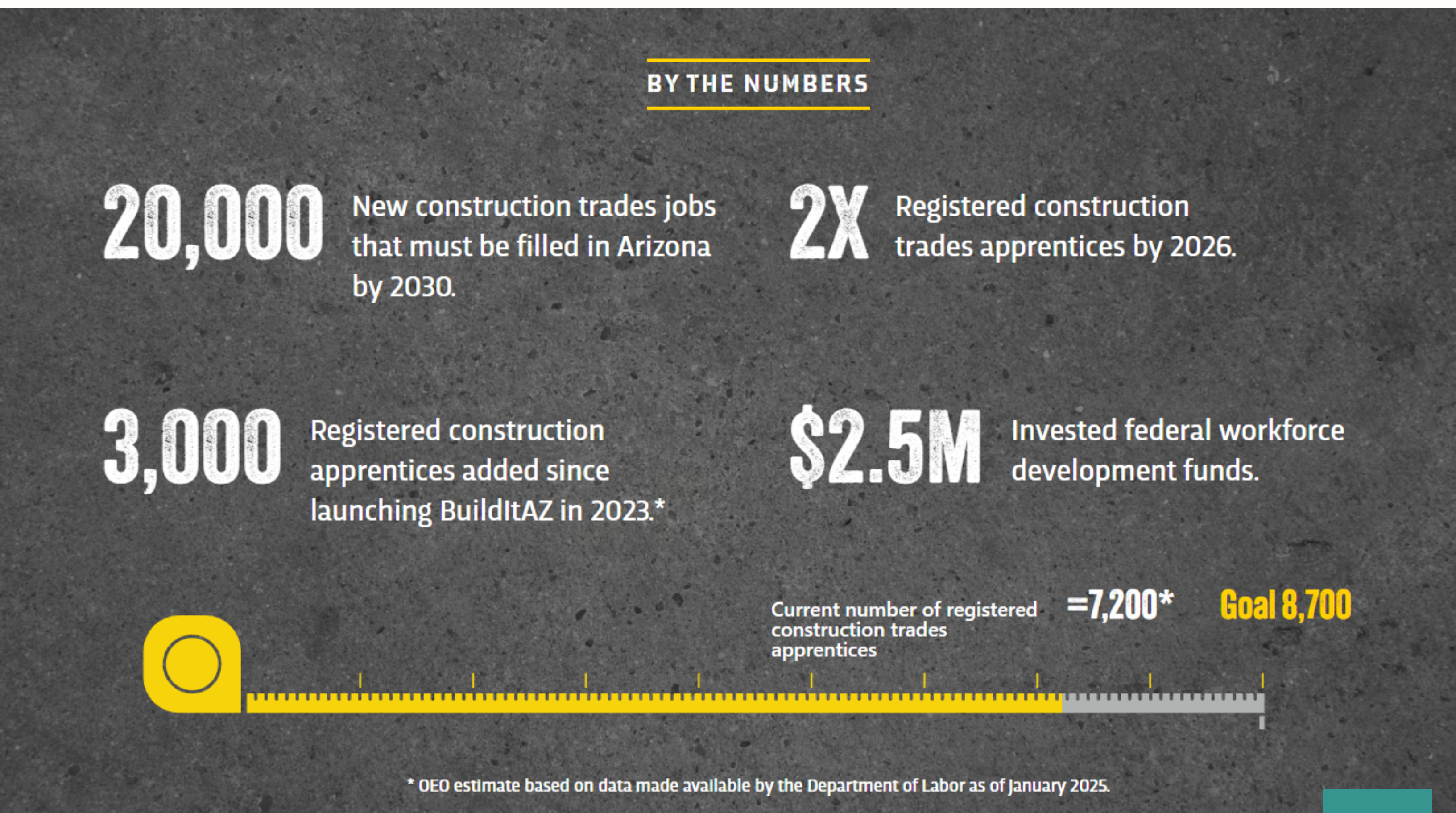
Launched in 2023, BuildItAZ aims to expand opportunities for employers and apprentices in Arizona by adding thousands of additional active construction apprentices by 2026. To date, it has successfully expanded the state's skilled construction workforce by 5,000 new construction and trade apprentices. The earn-while-you-learn apprentice initiative remains on track to double the number of construction trades registered apprentices by 2026, supporting the state's growing economy and connecting Arizonans with well-paying, high-quality jobs.

BuildItAZ funding supports hundreds of apprentices across Arizona with critical needs including tools, boots, books, tuition and program support with training equipment and instructors.

The Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity will be accepting applications for round three of BuildItAZ from Aug. 14, 2025 until Sept. 25, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. Mountain Time. For more information about the BuildItAZ Apprenticeship Initiative and to apply for the third round of grants visit OEO's website at [oeo.az.gov](oeo.az.gov) To learn more about BuildItAZ, visit [builditarizona.com](builditarizona.com).



## Out of sight, out of mind? Not anymore.

### *Stay on their radar: how subcontractors can stay top-of-mind with prime contractors*

You meet deadlines. You follow the specs. You do solid work. But when the next contract comes up, are prime contractors (primes) thinking of you or someone else?

Many small business owners, especially DBEs in the design and construction industry, ask the same question: *"How do I stay visible and valuable if I am not bidding as a prime?"* The answer is not spending money. It is about being intentional.

Here are five simple and practical ways to stay on the radar.

**1. Be a resource, not a sales pitch.**

Be useful before trying to be hired. Instead of always asking for work, become a helpful contact. Share an article, forward a project-related tip or congratulate them on a recent win. Prove that you are engaged and invested, not just chasing the next job.

*Try this:* Send a short email with a link to an ADOT update or market trend: *"Thought you might find this helpful. It looks like changes are coming on ADA spec language."*

No pressure. Just value.

**2. Create a simple keep-in-touch plan.**

Stay out of sight too long and you can be forgotten. You do not need a complicated Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system to follow up. Use a spreadsheet, calendar reminders or a simple list to check in every couple of months. Rotate your outreach: one email, one event conversation, one social media comment, then repeat.

*Think of it like watering a plant.* You do not need to flood it. You just need consistency.

**3. Show up where they are.**

Visibility builds familiarity. Even if you're not chasing the job, show up at pre-bid meetings, industry networking events or matchmaking sessions. Familiar faces become trusted names. Your goal is to be known before the next team is assembled.

*Look ahead.* Identify three to five events each quarter where your target clients will likely be. Register and put them on your calendar now.

**4. Keep your materials fresh.**

What primes see should match who you are now. When a prime wants to refer or recommend you, they look for something to pass along, such as a capability statement, website or LinkedIn profile. Make sure what they find reflects your most current qualifications.

*Update your materials regularly.* Do you have a new project, certification or certification? Add it. Check for broken links or outdated contact info.

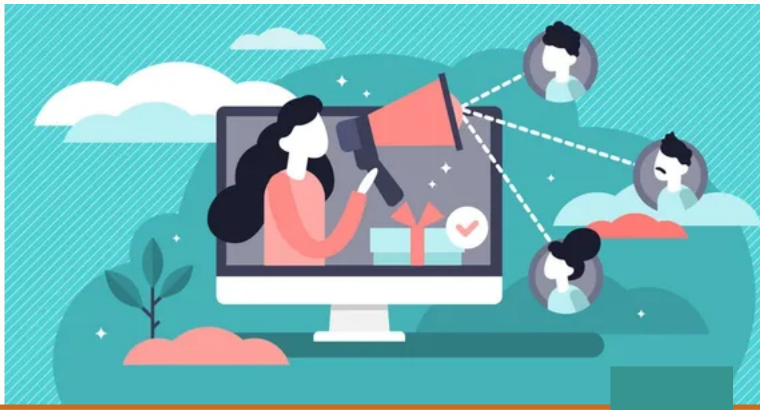
**5. Ask for feedback and stay curious.**

A smart question builds lasting trust. When the project ends, do not disappear. Reach out to your client and ask, "What worked well? What could we do better next time?" It shows you value the relationship and want to grow. Most primes will appreciate the initiative.

One strong follow-up builds more trust than five generic marketing emails.

**Stay visible, stay valued.**

You don't need to overdo it. Staying top-of-mind with primes is not about being pushy. It's about showing up consistently, adding value and maintaining your professionalism between projects. Keep showing up and your name will stay in the mix for future work.



## ADOT seeks input on plan for nine new EV charging corridors

**Proposed 2025 update would add 21 new or upgraded stations**

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is seeking public input on a plan that would add nine corridors to its planned network of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations.

As part of its 2025 Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan update, ADOT is recommending expanding the state's electric vehicle charging network to include 21 new or upgraded locations along the following highways:


- SR 77: Show Low to Holbrook
- SR 77: Tucson to Pima County limits
- SR 69: Interstate 17 to Prescott
- SR 89A/89: from State Route 69 to just north of Paulden
- SR 179: I-17 to Sedona
- SR 89/89A: Cottonwood to Sedona
- SR 260: I-17 to Cottonwood/SR 89A
- SR 85: I-8 in Gila Bend to I-10 in Buckeye
- SR 287: Casa Grande to I-10

More information is available at azdot.gov/EVPlan2025.

The EV charging network plan is part of $76.5 million in federal funding Arizona is eligible to receive through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program. The program encourages adoption of electric vehicles as viable alternatives to gasoline-powered cars by building a nationwide network of publicly accessible and reliable fast chargers to expand drivers' EV range.

ADOT's statewide electric vehicle charging network is being implemented in phases, with this being the final phase. Previous ADOT electric vehicle plans identified charging locations along all interstate freeways, US 89 and 93, State Routes 68, 90, 95 and 160 and portions of US 60 and State Routes 64, 80, 87 and 347.

In late 2024, ADOT selected firms to design, build, operate and maintain 18 privately owned electric vehicle charging stations along I-10, I-8, I-40, I-17 and I-19. ADOT expects the first new EV charging stations along the interstates to be completed in 2026. The process to solicit and award contracts for other new and upgraded charging stations identified in the 2023 and 2024 plans is expected to begin later this year.

Each location will have at least four 150-kilowatt direct current fast chargers. As of this year, Arizona is specifying that stations have both the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) North American Charging Standard (NACS or Tesla) and the Combined Charging System (CCS) plugs. The chargers are intended to charge a typical electric vehicle in 30 minutes or less.

All stations will be privately owned and operated, with federal funds covering up to 80% and the private developer covering a minimum of 20% of eligible project costs. No state funds will be involved in the construction of these stations.

For more information about the latest Arizona EV plan and additional ways to provide input, visit AZDOT.gov/EVPlan2025.

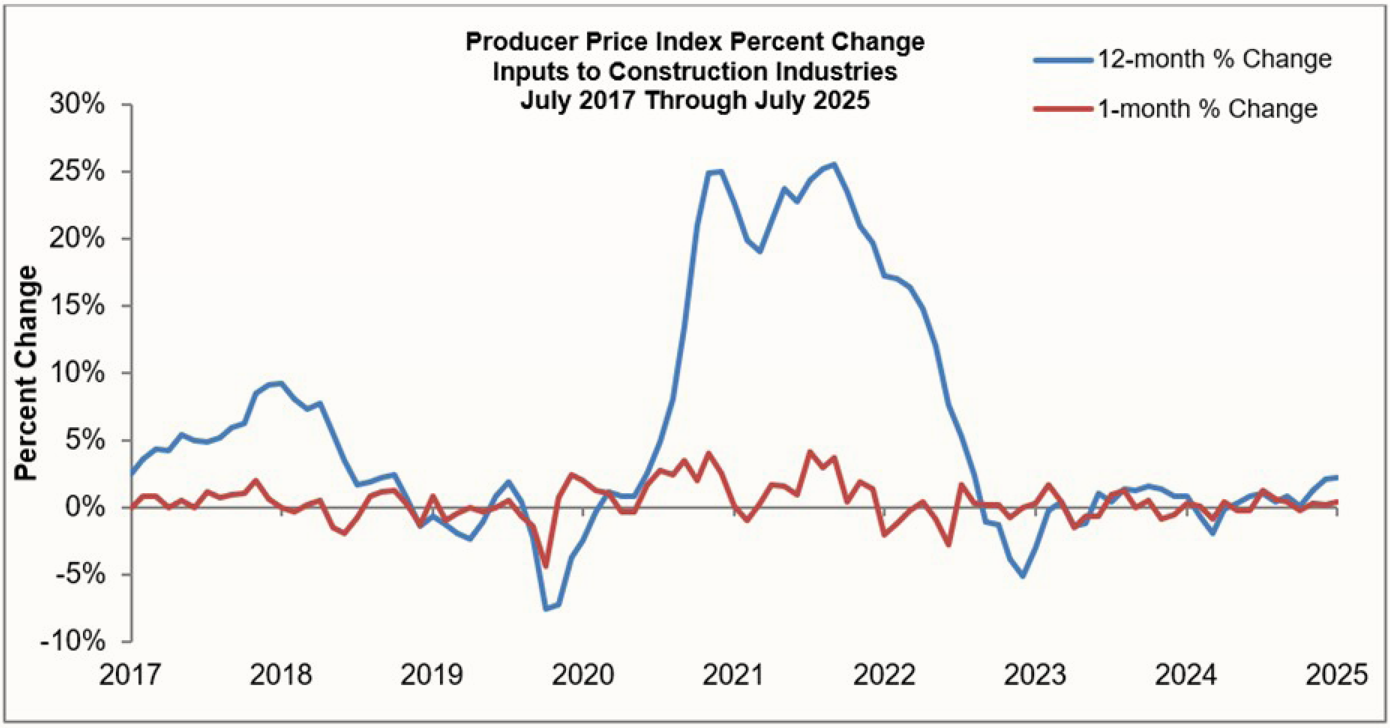
## Construction input prices up 0.4% in July

Construction input prices increased 0.4% in July compared to the previous month, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Producer Price Index data. Nonresidential construction input prices also increased 0.4% for the month.

Overall construction input prices are 2.2% higher than a year ago, while nonresidential construction input prices are 2.6% higher. Prices increased in two of the three energy categories last month. Crude petroleum and unprocessed energy materials prices were up 1.7% and 0.5%, respectively, while natural gas prices decreased 2.1% in July.

"Construction materials prices continued to increase too quickly in July," said ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu. "Nonresidential input prices have risen at a 5.8% annualized rate since January and trade policy will likely continue to put upward pressure on materials prices over the next several months. Copper wire and cable prices, for instance, surged 5% in July and are now up 12.2% over the past year. While contractors remain relatively upbeat, according to ABC's Construction Confidence Index, input price escalation may diminish profit margins during the final months of the year.

"The rapid increase in broader producer prices in July is just as worrying as rising construction input costs," said Basu. "With prices for final demand goods and services rising at the fastest pace since March 2022, the Federal Reserve will have to consider the prospect of resurgent inflation when deciding whether or not to cut rates at its September meeting. The construction industry is in desperate need of lower borrowing costs and higher rates for longer would continue to weigh on construction spending." (Source)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

ADOT/BECO

Other Associations

# INDUSTRY EVENTS

**Tuesday | Sept. 16, 2025**

****ATTENTION TO ALL FIRMS****

**Need help preparing DBE affidavits?**
**Please see our tutorial video below:**
[Preparing DBE Affidavits]



## SEPTEMBER

**17** — **APWA: September Luncheon**
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Location: Phoenix Country Club
2901 N. Seventh St., Phoenix

**18** — **AZ Water Association: 2025 Southern Arizona Monsoon Mixer**
5:30 - 7 p.m.
Location: Moto Sonora
1015 S. Park Ave., Tucson

**18** — **AAED: Southern Summit: How Aerospace Innovation Fuels Economic Growth**
8 - 11:30 a.m.
Location: Pima Air & Space Museum
6000 E. Valencia Road, Tucson

**19** — **ASLA: Phoenix Park(ing) Day 2025 - Reimagine Our Streets!**
7 - 10 a.m.
Location: Downtown Phoenix
Taylor St. between Second St. and Third St.

**19** — **ASLA: Tucson Park(ing) Day 2025 - Reimagine Our Streets!**
4 - 7 p.m.
Location: Tucson on University Blvd.
800 E. University Blvd., Tucson

**20** — **AMCA: Scottsdale College and Career Carnival**
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Location: Scottsdale Civic Center
3839 N. Drinkwater Blvd., Scottsdale

**24 - 26** — **ACEC: 2025 Arizona Conference on Roads and Streets**
8 a.m - 4 p.m.
Location: ACEC Arizona
3550 N. Central Ave., Ste. 1140, Phoenix

## Featured Federal-Aid Projects

### CURRENT OPEN SOLICITATIONS

| Due Date | Project Valuation | DBE Goal | Solicitation / Project Number | Type | Project Owner and Description | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **9/19/25 11:00 a.m. MST** | $41.25 million | 3.64% | 191-A-(205)T; F038301C | IFB | ADOT - **Bridge Replacement, Douglas to Willcox Highway (US 191) at Cochise Railroad Overpass.** The work consists of constructing a concrete girder bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad, removing existing bridge and constructing a new reinforced concrete box culvert at Walnut Wash. This work also includes surcharging realigned roadway to reduce long term settlements, culvert extensions and removals, guardrail, signing, striping and other related work. | Brandon Campbell, Engineer Specialist, at bcampbell2@azdot.gov. |
| **9/19/25 11:00 a.m. MST** | $6.9 million | 9.11% | 087-A-(216)T; F055501C | IFB | ADOT - **Pavement Rehabilitation, Picacho to Coolidge to Chandler to Mesa Highway (SR 87) from the Western Canal to Baseline Road.** The work consists of milling and replacing asphaltic concrete, constructing curb and gutter, sidewalks, driveways and sidewalk ramps and other miscellaneous work. | Ata Zarghami, Engineering Specialist, at azarghami2@azdot.gov. |
| **9/19/25 11:00 a.m. MST** | $33.8 million | 2.78% | 160-A-(213)T; F064401C | IFB | ADOT - **Pavement Rehabilitation, Tuba City to MP 335, Four Corners.** The work consists of mill and replace AC, remove and replace guardrail, extend pipe culverts, pavement marking and other related work. | Rene Teran, Engineering Specialist, rteran@azdot.gov. |
| **9/26/25 11:00 a.m. MST** | $2 million | 3.79% | YYU-0-(226)T; T037801C | IFB | ADOT - **Safety improvements, County 11th St at Ave G, Yuma County, REBID.** The work consists of removing sharp curve and realignment of Avenue G and County 11th Street and widening to provide exclusive left and right turn lanes, aggregate base, asphalt concrete, street light conduit and junction boxes, pavement marking, signing and other related work. | Jalal Kamal, Engineering Specialist, at Jkamal@azdot.gov. |

**External Links:**

- ADOT Current Advertisements
- ADOT Engineering Advertisements
- ADOT Public-Private Partnership Initiatives
- ADOT Advertised Alternative Delivery Projects
- Bidding Opportunities Around the State

**DBE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM**
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