

**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING
PROGRAM YEAR 2017 NONFORMULA GRANTS (7-1-17 to 6-30-18)**

2017 WIOA STATEWIDE INNOVATION GRANTS

Grantee: Alternatives, Inc. (Northeast Region)

Project Type: Innovation / Capacity Building

Award Amount: \$69,099

Project Description

Alternatives, Inc. will administer a planning grant to support the development an information technology (IT) apprenticeship model. Through conversations with other program leaders and technology experts, Alternatives will grow the network of technology industry partners and update the old technology program model to consider important factors such as: cohort size, industry-standard accreditations, integrating wraparound services and case management, appropriate training and apprenticeship timeline, and post-program responsibilities to our program alumni. The proposed research and pilot process will span 12 months. The resulting program will initially launch with a North Side focus, with the intent to be replicable at Alternatives South Side, Washington Park site in later iterations.

Grantee: OAI, Inc. (Northeast Region)

Project Type: Innovation Pilot

Award Amount: \$350,000

Project Summary: OAI and workforce partners will test the concept of a state-wide internship matching program through developing a user-friendly web platform and registering 80 young adults into the INTERNMATCH.COM portal and assisting them to develop their profiles. The consortium also aims to serve 50 manufacturers by registering them into the platform and assisting them to match their intern openings to young adults. The consortium also aims to implement the highly successful Mentor Matching Engine (MME) in the South Cook County region amongst in-school youth participating in the regional High School Southworks Robotics Olympics and their company sponsors. Partners in the project include: Business and Career Services, the Calumet Manufacturing Industry Sector Partnership, the Chicago Southland EDC, LWIA 7, the Illinois Science & Technology Coalition and 3Seeds Mentoring Group.

Grantee: Heartland Human Care Services (Statewide)

Project Type: Innovation / Capacity Building

Funding Requested: \$200,000

Project Summary: Heartland Human Care Services will provide financial literacy & coaching technical assistance to WIOA Eligible Training Providers. Financial education trainings for 375 agency staff members across identified partners and regions of the state. 300 of those receiving financial education training will receive an additional training on financial coaching. Heartland Human Care Services also proposes to engage those who attend training throughout the grant term in a 'Learning Community', developed as a series of monthly conferences calls and regular webinars to extend the reach and length of this technical assistance.

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Grantee: Technology & Manufacturing Association (Northeast Region)

Project Type: Innovation Pilot

Award Amount: \$249,980

Project Summary: The Technology & Manufacturing Association will develop and pilot a Manufacturing Career Awareness and Pathway Development program for high school students, Manufacturing Apprenticeship Training Awareness and Expansion, and Partnership Development between workforce providers/community-based organizations and TMA members. Five goals of this project and their anticipated outcomes are:

- Create a marketing and outreach campaign about manufacturing careers and training opportunities. Outcomes: Expanded awareness about manufacturing programs, training opportunities, manufacturing career pathways, and manufacturing apprenticeship programs to encourage more job seekers to consider careers in manufacturing.
- Develop a structured Career Awareness and Pathway program that includes a hands-on training capstone activity. Outcomes: A structured and formalized Career Awareness and Pathway model that includes hands-on training and can be replicated with other population groups.
- Pilot the Career Awareness and Pathway program and make modifications to incorporate program improvements. Outcomes: A strengthened Career Awareness and Pathway model that has been tested and modified to improve identified shortcomings and include necessary updates.
- Expand U.S. DOL Apprenticeship Training awareness and utilization with TMA member companies. Outcomes: Increased awareness and participation by TMA member employers in the Registered Apprenticeship Programs and explore the possibility of including a distance learning option in the current apprenticeship program.
- Initiate and expand partnerships to create ongoing pipeline of potential manufacturing employees. Outcomes: Expanded pipeline of job seekers interested in manufacturing careers.

Grantee: Chicago Jobs Council (Statewide)

Project Type: Innovation / Capacity Building

Award Amount: \$200,000

Project Summary: The Chicago Jobs Council will partner with Young Invincibles to increase the number of service providers that actively use apprenticeships. Key activities:

- Develop and deliver Intro to Apprenticeship workshops to CBOs and other workforce agencies to generate interested potential partners
- Develop and deliver a Partners in Apprenticeship workshop for up to 40 organizations
- Develop a framework for an expanded Illinois apprenticeship partner network
- Develop recommendations for sustainability, standard partner qualifications, integration into the broader apprenticeship system and workforce and adult education systems.

Grantee: Greater Oak Brook Chamber of Commerce (Northeast Region)

Project Type: Innovation Pilot / Capacity Building

Award Amount: \$74,000

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Project Summary: The Chamber will expand an innovative talent pipeline development project with several regional businesses and Willowbrook High School. The program includes private sector mentors that provide challenge projects to teams of high school students while also raising student awareness of the need to develop essential employability skills. Much of the activity takes place in the classroom but students also visit actual work sites to help their understanding of the issues they are attempting to address in their specific team challenges. Along with refining the model, the Chamber and its business partners will develop a how-to guide and toolkit that could easily be adopted and scaled by other businesses, associations and schools to adopt business driven, career pathway program within their own communities.

Grantee: Roseland Franklin University (Northeast Region)

Project Type: Innovation Pilot

Award Amount: \$188,300

Project Summary: The Grantee will work with LWIA 1 (Lake County) to focus on creating incumbent worker training programs for in-demand jobs that lead to job retention and advancement through skill/career pathways in the healthcare industry. The project partners will evaluate the current Walgreens pharmacy technician program and provide additional training and support to help incumbent workers pass the Pharmacy Technician Certification examination (PTCB). Pharmacy technician training curricula for the PTCB certification will be redesigned based on the Walgreens environmental scan leading to the PTCB certification. This will include development of role-specific clinical and technical skill training modules and industry-recognized certificates for common employability skills.

Grantee: Literacy DuPage (Northeast Region)

Project Type: Innovation pilot / Priority population

Award Amount: \$199,700

Project Summary: Literacy DuPage will develop Incumbent worker training for improved English proficiency. The project will create customized *English as a Second Language* training for up to 55 workers at 4 companies in DuPage County and evaluate the impact. The applicant will work with Greencore USA, Choose DuPage, the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce, LWIA 6, to identify additional companies to participate in the pilot. The potential of this innovation project is to determine the impact of ESL training customized to specific business requirements.

Grantee: TEC Services (Northeast Region)

Project Type: Sector Partnership

Award Amount: \$747,700

Project Summary: TEC Services, in conjunction with the Workforce Partners of Metropolitan Chicago (WPMC), proposes a regional incumbent worker demonstration project that uses existing data as well as direct engagement with employers and other partners to gain a better understanding of needs and opportunities, begin at a high level and drilling down to individual practices and collective talent needs.

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This will prepare WPMC to develop a practical, on-the-ground solutions to Transportation, Distribution and Logistics (TDL) workforce challenges that fit the real-time context of actual employers and serves job seekers in the Northeast Economic Development Region (NEEDR). The TEC Services and the Workforce Partners of Metro Chicago propose to implement the recommendations of the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board TDL Task Force Reports from 2006 and 2017. Key goals include:

- Understand the TDL sector from a data perspective: employers, current workforce, and potential supply side availability.
- Catalogue Promising Practices in TDL recruitment, hiring and employee retention.
- Establish industry career pathways for multiple occupations.
- Prepare an Industry Career Awareness Campaign for job seekers.
- Pinpoint employer “pain points,” or collective talent needs and prepare to address them.
- Develop Regional Business Services Teams (at the Title I level and then with Core Partners).