2018 Apprenticeship Expansion Grants

Grantee: ManTraCon Corp
Project Type: Intermediary and Navigator
Sector: Manufacturing, Healthcare, TDL
Award Amount: $156,978

Project Summary: Acting as Apprenticeship Navigator, ManTraCon will oversee a project team tasked with mapping existing resources and identifying gaps in development of apprenticeships as well as other talent pipeline challenges in the southern region. The Navigator team will engage 15 new businesses and register 4 new apprenticeship programs. An Apprenticeship Coordinator will be hired to coordinate activities across the region. Transportation issues are one of the largest barriers to employment in the region and this project will work to improve the ability to utilize public transportation as a reliable means of getting to and from work. As an Apprenticeship Intermediary, ManTraCon will enroll 10 apprentices in 3 different programs as CNC Operator & Programmer, Industrial Technician/Elevator Mechanic and Phlebotomy. ManTraCon plans to work in collaboration with current partners to discuss apprenticeships with several employers in the region whom they’ve identified in their proposal.

Project Partners include: John A. Logan College (Apprenticeship Sponsor) Rend Lake College (DOL approved Intermediary), Shawnee Community College, Southeastern Illinois College, IDES Business Services Team, Special Mine Services – CNC (Employer), Phoenix Modular – Industrial Tech/Elevator Mechanic (Employer)

Grantee: Cook County Bureau of Economic Development
Project Type: Navigator
Sector: Metal Manufacturing – Primary Metals; Fabricated
Award Amount: $140,000

Project Summary: The applicant is the lead organization for the Chicago Metro Metals Consortium (CMMC). Through its existing network of employers and partners, this project will engage 40 new businesses to widen the network of apprenticeship sponsors and serve as a steward for improving apprenticeship readiness by working with schools and training organizations to promote careers in manufacturing to young people. CMMC will expand its current role as a connector for both partners and manufacturers and serve as an apprenticeship champion with technical expertise to promote and expand apprenticeships in the region and provide on-on-one technical assistance. This multi-year, long-term project will be sustained with the help of the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership. As a sub-recipient of the Illinois Defense Industry Adjustment Program Phase II grant, the applicant will leverage $166,820 for this project to identify and understand the expansive supply chain for defense manufacturers in the Chicago region using the mapping tool created during Phase I of the defense industry program to identify defense manufactures in the Chicago region with whom to outreach and promote apprenticeships.

Project Partners include: Chicago-Cook Workforce Partnership, Chicagoland Southland Economic Development Corporation (CSEDC), OAI, Business and Career Services, Inc., Chicago Federation of Labor,
Grantee: Calumet Area Industrial Commission  
Project Type: Intermediary  
Sector: Manufacturing – Industrial Maintenance  
Award Amount: $250,000

Project Summary: This project builds on CAIC’s capacity as a facilitator of manufacturing apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs on Chicago’s south side and south suburbs. This project will develop Industrial Maintenance apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships for a consortium of regional business partners. The project will enroll 20 individuals in Registered Apprenticeship programs, 30 in pre-apprenticeship programs. Four new RA programs will be developed, and two existing RA programs will be expanded. As entry-level machine operators and assemblers move up the career path with further training, CAIC anticipates providing employers with potential employees to fill the open positions. Prairie State College conducts the required classroom training and each employer handles the OJT component with Journey-workers serving as trainers. In addition, working with Daley College as a sponsor to establish apprenticeships to aggregate small employer needs.

Project Partners: Daley College, Prairie State College, South Suburban, Moraine Valley, OAI, South Suburban Mayors & Managers Assoc., JARC, Gelita, USA (Calumet City) Chicago Magnesium Casting (Blue Island) Tower Automotive (12350 South St., Chicago) Flex-N-Gate (2924 E. 126th St. Chicago), Keystone-Calumet, Inc. (Chicago Heights) Agrati, Inc (Park Forest).

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Grantee: Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education  
Project Type: Navigator  
Sector: Healthcare – Pharmacy Tech; Advanced Pharmacy Tech  
Award Amount: $208,900

Project Summary: This project will convene community pharmacy and health care system employers and practitioners in Cook and Lake Counties to educate about and support apprenticeship programs for Pharmacy Technicians. The pilot program focuses on designing and implementing a non-registered apprenticeship for pharmacy technicians and will seek US DOL approval for an Advanced Pharmacy Technician Registered Apprenticeship at the end of the grant period. New standards for Pharmacy Technician education will become effective January 2019, and this project will work with employers to oversee the quality and program design in the entry-level Pharmacy Technician program and to develop a new health system apprenticeship model and career pathway for Advanced Pharmacy Technicians.

Project Partners: Northwestern Medicine, College of Lake County, SHINE Pharmacy Technician Program, Talent First, The Institute for American Apprenticeships at Vermont HITEC, Institute for American Apprenticeships (IAA)
Grantee: Lake Land College  
Project Type: Intermediary and Navigator  
Sector: Healthcare – Certified Medical Assistant  
Award Amount: $200,000

Project Summary: Applicant proposes to serve as both Apprenticeship Navigator and Intermediary focusing on the non-traditional sector of healthcare. Each Community College project partner will act as apprenticeship sponsor and provide required technical instruction to develop a Registered Apprenticeship for Certified Medical Assistants. Plans are to recruit 40 apprentices with 34 successfully earning certification. Each CC partner has long-standing relationships with health care employers and through development of sector advisory boards, applicant will work to promote and develop apprenticeship opportunities throughout the region and further enhance the existing infrastructure to support apprenticeship expansion. Thirty new healthcare businesses will be engaged and in-kind and matching funds of $207,192 will be provided by the 3 community colleges, Title I, including $7500 in Title II funds.

Project Partners: Lincoln Trail College and Kaskaskia College (sub-recipients), LWIA 23, CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp., Sarah Bush Lincoln Health System (Mattoon) Carle Hospital System (Mattoon) HSHS St. Anthony (Effingham) Fayette County Hospital.

Grantee: St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grant Dept.  
Project Type: Intermediary and Navigator  
Sector: Manufacturing, Healthcare  
Award Amount: $400,000

Project Summary: This project managed by the St. Louis Metro East Apprenticeship Consortium will serve 9 counties and is focused on RAs in Healthcare (Certified Medical Assistant) and Manufacturing (Refinery Operator). Working as an Intermediary, the applicant will serve 15 WIOA eligible apprentices with technical instruction provided by Lewis and Clark Community College and OJT delivered by employer partners National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center, Center Ethanol and Green Plains. In addition, consortium will partner with SIHF Healthcare on a pilot apprenticeship incumbent worker program for Certified Medical Assistants. The project plans to recruit lower-skilled minimum wage incumbent workers as participants and provide onsite training at the workers place of employment. As a Navigator the Consortium will work with more than 19 employers, community-based organizations and economic development organizations to raise awareness and foster engagement in the apprenticeship model by developing a regional protocol for outreach, survey of employers and sector-targeted Apprenticeship Awareness Campaigns.

Project Partners: Lewis and Clark Community College, Southwestern Illinois College, SIUE, National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center (NCERC) at SIUE, SIHF Healthcare, Green Plains, Antolin Nashville, LWIAs 21, 22 and 24 – EDR 9 Regional Partnership
Grantee: Prairie State College
Project Type: Intermediary
Sector: Manufacturing, TDL, IT
Award Amount: $200,000

Project Summary: This project will serve 55 participants through pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs across three industry sectors offering career pathways in Manufacturing, IT and TDL. Plans are to expand two existing RAs as well as expand two existing pre-apprenticeship programs, including:

- IT Apprenticeship Program: 15 participants
- Industrial Maintenance Mechanic Apprenticeship Program: 10 Participants (Manufacturing)
- Maintenance Technician Apprenticeship Program: 15 participants (Manufacturing)
- CDL Apprenticeship Program: 15 participants expand (TDL)

In partnership with Calumet Area Industrial Association, Prairie State will work to expand the Industrial Maintenance apprenticeships to incumbent workers for a minimum of 2 employers. In addition, a Maintenance Technician Apprenticeship program will begin in Fall 2019 offering dual credit courses in manufacturing technology. Working with employer partner KLLM, Prairie State’s Driving Academy will provide instruction for CDL and KLLM guarantees employment.

Project Partners: Calumet Area Industrial Commission, National Able, LWIA 7, LWIA 10, Alsip Mini Mill, Calumet Lift Truck Service, Chicago Magnesium Casting Co., Cook County Bureau of Economic Development, Flex N Gate, Gelita, KLLM Transport Services

Grantee: LWIA 14 – Western Illinois Works
Project Type: Intermediary and Navigator
Sector: Manufacturing, Healthcare, TDL
Award Amount: $200,000

Project Summary: Western Illinois Works (WIW) has been approved by US DOL as an Apprenticeship program intermediary. For this project WIW will form Apprenticeship teams in each of 3 “sub-regions” within the EDR focused on uncovering hiring/retention challenges for employers, strengthening the talent pipeline and raising awareness of pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs to employers in the region. Project will recruit five new employers to participate in apprenticeship programs – four Registered Apprenticeship and one non-registered apprenticeship. Community College partners will provide required technical instruction for CDL Apprenticeship as well as CNC and Welding Apprenticeships and employer partners will provide OJTs. Ten individuals will be recruited and enrolled in Registered Apprenticeship programs and 12 incumbent workers will be served.
Project Partners: John Wood Community College, Carl Sandburg College, Spoon River College, DOT Foods (Mt. Sterling), Kohls Wholesale (Quincy), Pegasus (Galesburg), Midstate Manufacturing (Galesburg) and Manchester Tank (Quincy)

Grantee: City Colleges of Chicago
Project Type: Intermediary
Sector: Manufacturing
Award Amount: $200,000

Project Summary: City Colleges will take the lead in this demonstration project by leveraging apprenticeship expertise and employer connections of project partners to expand manufacturing apprenticeships with Chicago employers focusing on Industrial Maintenance and CNC programs. With employer partners, the project will establish work-based learning activities and processes as well as pre-apprenticeship programs. Classroom instruction will take place at Daley College and Wright College. The project will serve 40 participants and work to develop pre-apprenticeship programs that will support the established apprenticeship program. As part of the sustainability plan, CCC will capitalize on the infrastructure and “next-generation” partnership of this project to roll out further expansion of Apprenticeship programs to other network schools within the CCC system.

Project Partners: Calumet Area Industrial Commission, Manufacturing Renaissance, Cook County Bureau of Economic Development, CCWP, E&ES, Donson Machine, Pepsico, American Gear Manufacturing Association, BSD Industries (CBO providing Bridge programs)

Grantee: TEC Services Consulting
Project Type: Navigator
Sector: Manufacturing, Healthcare, TDL, IT
Award Amount: $400,000

Project Summary: Applicant proposes to hire three technical apprenticeship experts to build regional capacity. A regional Project Advisory Committee will help guide the project partners including the creation of a regional website/database organized by sector with the Workforce Partners of Metropolitan Chicago (WPMC). This password protected database will be designed as a resource with employer contacts, current trends and other significant data. Armed with this new data, applicant will work with employers, intermediaries, LWIA Business Service Teams, DOL apprenticeship staff and other partners to design apprenticeship programs in a manner that is effective and thoughtful. Information gathering and sharing as well as relationship building activities will also include employer surveys, feedback on best practices etc. The 3 technical experts will eventually train 25 additional business services reps to sustain the work they begin with this project.

Project Partners: Workforce Partners of Metropolitan Chicago (WPMC) Business Services Teams from all EDR 4 LWIA’s
Grantee: National Able
Project Type: Intermediary
Sector: IT
Award Amount: $350,000

Project Summary: Applicant will enroll 20 individuals in an IT Registered Apprenticeship program with 18 earning journey-worker status in either one of two IT occupations—Network Support Specialist or Systems Administrator. Individuals will be interviewed and have a hiring commitment from an employer prior to the start of classroom training. Participants will earn 4 certifications from Microsoft and Cisco. Bridge programs and supportive services are available. Training takes place in 4 locations: 567 W. Lake St., Chicago; Lisle, Waukegan and Palatine. Upon certification, graduates are placed in subsidized employment as apprentices for 12 to 16 weeks, followed by OJT, until shifting to unsubsidized employment for final 3 months of apprenticeship. In addition, applicant proposes to convene an “Apprenticeship Training Committee“ with eight businesses to develop and regulate apprenticeship standards within IT. Able plans to expand the employer base for IT apprenticeships with the idea of creating a backfill or “talent pipeline” for IT positions.

Project Partners: LWIA 1 and 6, Keystone Alliance 1925 N. Clybourn, Chicago; Heartland Alliance 208 S. LaSalle, Chicago; Net56 21805 W. Field, Deer Park