



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

Illinois Works Jobs Program

Meeting Starts In: **10:00**





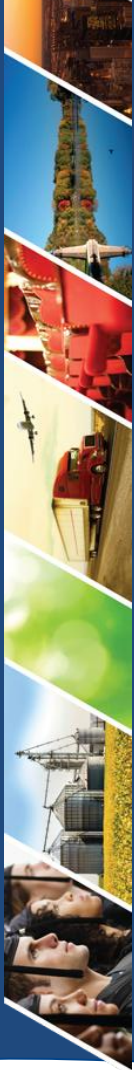
Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

Illinois Works Jobs Program

Introduction to Illinois Works and Its Programs







ILW Pre-Apprenticeship Team

- Dr. Norman Ruano, Deputy Director of Illinois Works
- Mr. Dan Martinez, Sr. Pre-Apprenticeship Program Manager
- Ms. Monica Pruitt, Grant Manager
- Mr. Edwin Molina-Sanchez, Grant Manager
- Ms. Sharhianna Fulce, Grant Manager
- Ms. Alison Altmeyer, Financial Grant Manager
- Mr. Terrance Knight, Financial Grant Manager
- Dr. Jeffery Doolittle, Instructional Designer & Program Coach
- Dr. Tayna Ford, Instructional Designer & Program Coach
- Dr. Jeremy VanKley, Instructional Designer & Program Coach
- Mr. Victor Castillo, Professional Development Lead





Course Overview



Illinois Works was created as a result of Governor Pritzker's historic \$45 billion capital plan and his commitment to expanding equity in the Illinois' construction workforce. This exciting new initiative will create opportunities for Illinois businesses, communities, and families.

During this course you will be provided with an overview of Illinois Works, the Illinois Works Job Program Act, and the Illinois Works three key programs.



Course Objectives

By the end of this training, learners will be able to:

- Articulate the mission of DCEO.
- Describe the relationship between DCEO and Illinois Works.
- Describe the three key programs implemented as a result of the Illinois Works Job Program Act.
- Review the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) recently released.



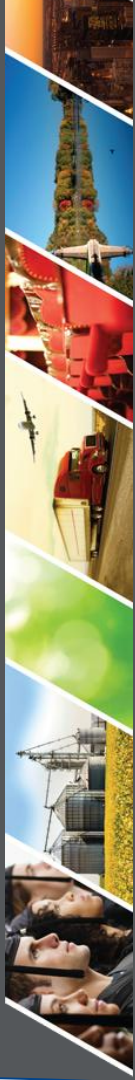


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This Session is Being Recorded





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Section 2: Welcome and Introduction

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Use the Webex features and functions to fully participate in the training.
- Identify what you hope to learn from this training.





Webex Tutorial

The screenshot shows a Webex meeting window with a 2x3 grid of participants. A dashed blue line connects the 'Meeting info' tab to the top-left participant. A red arrow points from the 'Mute' button in the bottom toolbar to the 'Meeting link' text in the sidebar. Three red arrows point to the 'Stop video', 'Raise hand', and 'Chat' buttons in the bottom toolbar. The sidebar on the left displays 'Feature Planning Meeting' with host 'Clarissa Smith' and buttons for 'Copy meeting link' and 'Invite and remind'. The bottom toolbar includes buttons for 'Mute', 'Stop video', 'Share', 'Record', 'Raise hand', 'Chat', and 'Apps'.

Webex Meeting info Show menu bar 12:40 Layout

Feature Planning Meeting
Host: Clarissa Smith
Copy meeting link Invite and remind

General Security

Meeting link
<https://example.webex.com/go/f.php?MTID=md2baae7e4b0f5be8496394427fae7ae>

Mute Stop video Share Record Raise hand Chat Apps

- Mute/Unmute
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- Emojis
- Chat

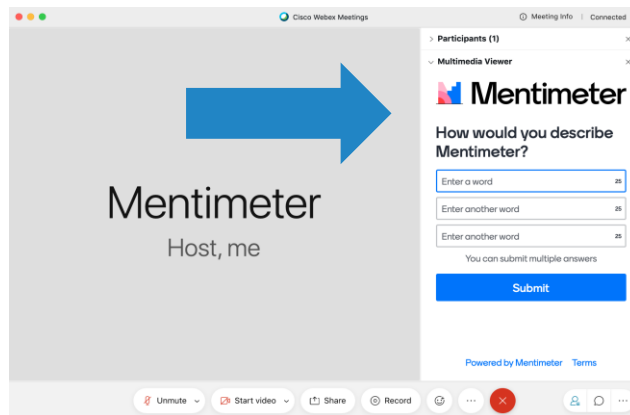
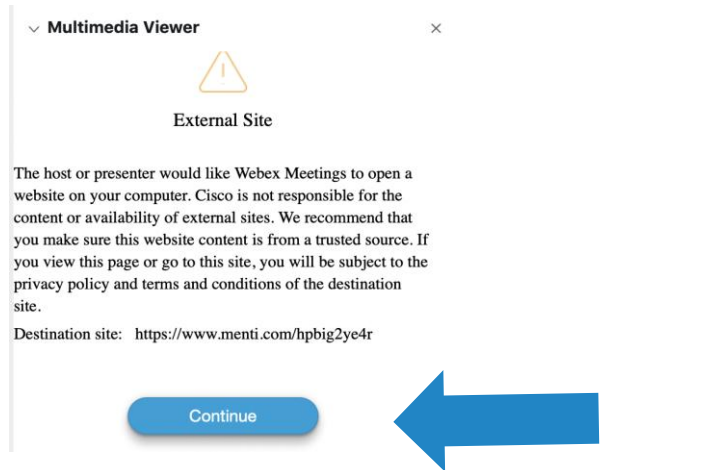


- ▶ On the right-hand of your Webex screen click the blue **Continue** button.
- ▶ Once you click the button the Mentimeter app will show in the Multimedia viewer.



Link: [menti.com](https://www.menti.com)
Code: 2221 7462

Direct: <https://www.menti.com/al8q4sy98z9g>





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- Your Name
- Organization/Agency
- Role
- Geographic Region

ILLINOIS 



Question:

“What do you hope to learn?”





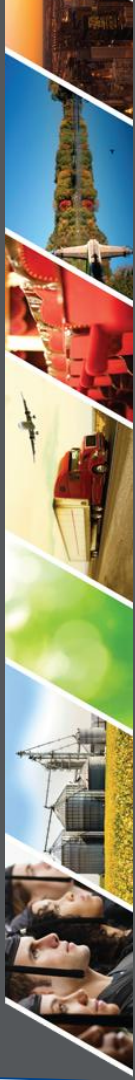
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Comments, feedback, or questions?

Email us at:

CEO.IllinoisWorks@Illinois.Gov



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Section 3: Illinois Works



By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the role of Governor Pritzker's historic \$45 billion capital plan in the creation of Illinois Works.
- Explain the role of the Illinois General Assembly regarding the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act.
- Describe the unique characteristics of the Illinois works innovative workforce development model.



Section 3: Illinois Works

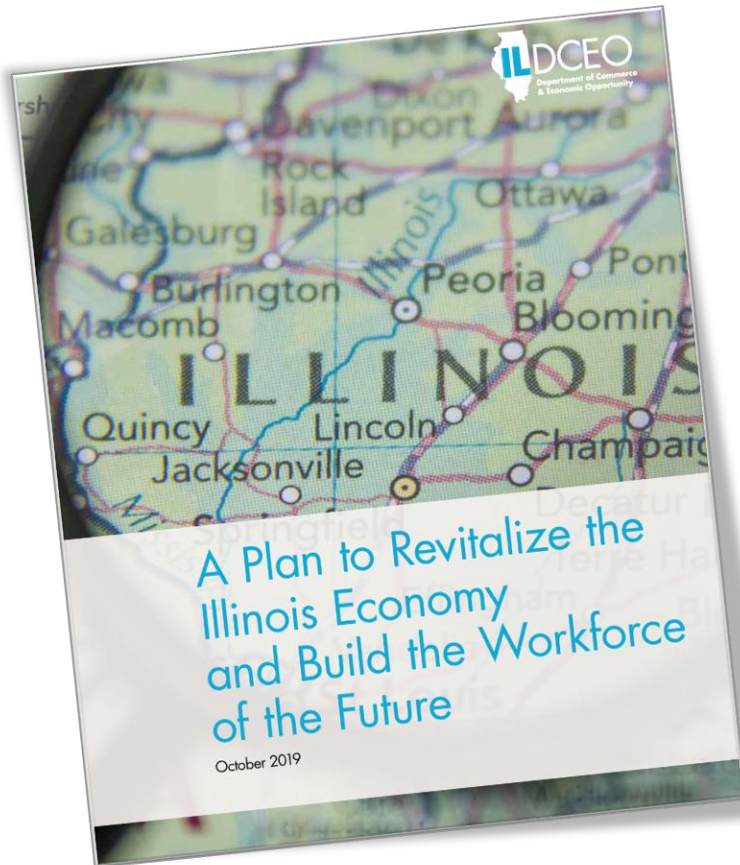


By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Articulate the mission of DCEO.
- Describe the relationship between DCEO and Illinois Works.
- List the Illinois Works three key programs.
- Identify the Illinois Works goals.



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Innovative Workforce Model



Question:

“What has the potential to make a workforce development initiative vulnerable?”





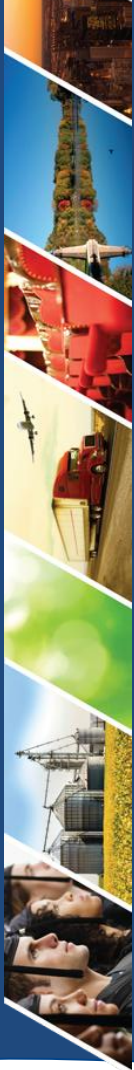
Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity



The Office of Illinois Works



Illinois Works Jobs Program Act





Illinois DCEO About Us



The screenshot displays the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) website. The header includes the state logo, the department name, and navigation links for 'AGENCIES' and 'SERVICES'. A language selector is set to 'English'. Below the header, a search bar is present. The main navigation menu lists: 'Assistance for Businesses', 'Assistance for Individuals', 'Assistance for Communities', and 'About Us'. The breadcrumb trail shows 'DCEO > ABOUT US'. The 'ABOUT US' section is highlighted in purple. A list of links on the left includes: 'Accountability for the Investment of Public Funds ...', 'Contact Us', 'DCEO Leadership', 'Employment Opportunities', 'Equal Opportunity', 'Events and Public Notices', 'FOIA Requests', 'Grant Opportunities', 'Illinois Corporate Accountability', and 'Legislation and Reporting'. The main content area features the heading 'About Us' with a red arrow pointing to it. The text describes the DCEO's mission to create equitable economic opportunities across the state. A list of offices follows, with 'Accountability' and 'Broadband Development' highlighted with blue dots. The 'Broadband Development' section is further detailed with text about the Office of Broadband (OBB) and its programs.

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AGENCIES SERVICES

English

search

Assistance for Businesses Assistance for Individuals Assistance for Communities About Us

DCEO > ABOUT US

ABOUT US

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[Grant Opportunities](#)

[Illinois Corporate Accountability](#)

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About Us

The mission of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is to create equitable economic opportunities across the State of Illinois. By attracting and supporting major job creators, investing in communities, strengthening Illinois' world-class workforce, fostering innovation, and ushering in the new clean energy economy, DCEO works to fortify Illinois' reputation as a global economic powerhouse while ensuring Illinois is the best state to live, work and do business.

DCEO delivers impactful programs and services through the following offices:

- **Accountability**
The Office of Accountability (OA) enhances integrity, transparency and accountability across the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's programs. [The Grant Help Desk](#), within the Office of Accountability, provides valuable resources, training and guidance to entities who are interested in the Department's grant opportunities.
- **Broadband Development**
The Office of Broadband (OBB) is responsible for administering broadband infrastructure grant programs. These programs include Connect IL and the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. From infrastructure to utilization, public funding to private deployment, the office strives to be a useful resource to individual consumers, local communities, various state agencies, and broadband providers alike. OBB seeks to make meaningful connections through thoughtful public-private partnerships, innovative cross-sector collaboration, and increased efficiency within state agency and across all levels of government.



Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

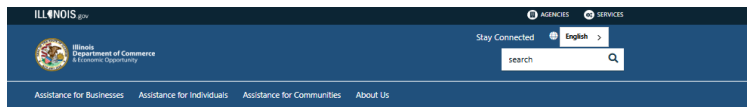


The mission of the **Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's (DCEO)** is to create equitable economic opportunities across the State of Illinois. By attracting and supporting major job creators, investing in communities, strengthening Illinois' world-class workforce, fostering innovation, and ushering in the new clean energy economy, DCEO works to fortify Illinois' reputation as a global economic powerhouse while ensuring Illinois is the best state to live, work and do business.

DCEO delivers impactful and efficient programs and services!



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity ~ Website



DCEO > ABOUT US

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About Us

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• **Business Development**

The Office of Business Development (OBD) provides free and confidential services to companies seeking to locate or expand in Illinois. The primary focus of this office is to retain and create jobs in Illinois and spur capital investment by working with existing businesses and new businesses making expansion and location decisions. OBD administers a portfolio of tax incentives, grants, and programs to help companies develop, redevelop, expand, locate, and relocate in Illinois, and works closely with other DCEO offices and economic development partners like Intersect Illinois, DCEO's business attraction and marketing partner.

• **Communication & Information**

DCEO's fast-paced Communications (COMM) team aims to advance DCEO's mission by raising awareness about key initiatives through communications and media strategies. The team communicates complicated topics to mass audiences via press release and social media channels, high-profile events with the Governor and other key stakeholders, and statements and interviews with DCEO leadership and the media.

• **Human Resources**

The DCEO Office of Human Resources (HR) manages all aspects of the employee lifecycle, including recruiting, onboarding, training & development, payroll, benefit administration, leaves of absence, employee relations and offboarding.

• **Illinois Works**

The Office of Illinois Works (OIW), through its three main programs (Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative, Illinois Works Construction Pre-apprenticeship Program, and Illinois Works Bid Credit Program), sets out to expand equity in Illinois' construction workforce. The Illinois Works team aims to provide a career pathway for members of historically underrepresented communities and promote construction as a viable job industry for women, Veterans, and people of color. OIW aims to supply the construction industry with a skilled workforce for generations to come.

• **Information Management**

The Office of Information Management (OIM) is staffed in partnership with the Department of Innovation and Technology (DOIT), a peer state agency. OIM is leading a digital transformation toward an enterprise approach to technology at DCEO to gain efficiencies and improve service delivery to the residents of Illinois. This transformation is resulting in improved security and data protection, fewer redundant systems, and more efficient technology spending. DOIT/OIM's customer centric approach improves access to agency services by leveraging modern technologies.

• **Internal Audit**

The Office of Internal Audit (OIA) is responsible for providing independent and objective auditing and advisory services to DCEO. These audits help determine the adequacy of DCEO internal controls while ensuring compliance with State and Federal requirements. OIA also supports DCEO by making recommendations which help ensure regulatory compliance and reduce operating costs while increasing efficiency and operational effectiveness.

• **Legislative Affairs**

DCEO's Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA) leads legislative advocacy on behalf of DCEO: drafting, filing, and moving legislation and communicating the Department's position on legislation filed by external stakeholders. The Office of Legislative Affairs is also the key interface and liaison for members of the Illinois General Assembly and assists with constituent issues raised by various elected officials.

• **Management Operations**

The Office of Management Operations (MO) is responsible for many agency-wide functions such as mail and shipping, office supplies, print shop requests, record retention, building maintenance, telecommunications, and IT related equipment. Management Operations also reviews and approves all travel requests and manages the agency motor pool fleet.

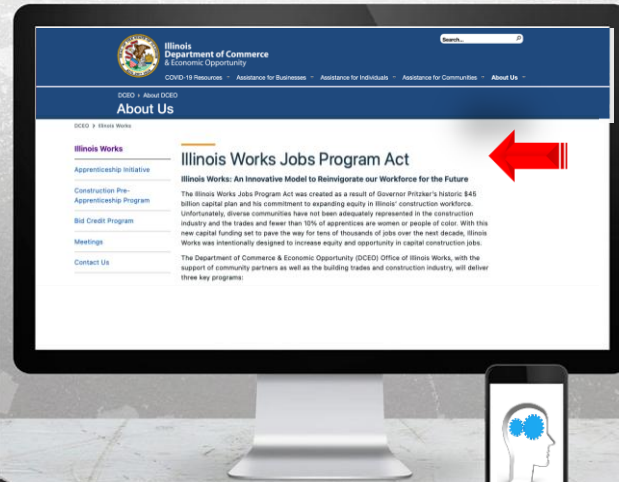
• **Policy Development, Planning & Research**

The Office of Policy Development, Planning, and Research (PDPR) conducts research, develops policies, and collaborates with other DCEO offices and stakeholders to ensure programs align with the state's economic priorities and community needs. PDPR manages the Illinois Economic Growth Plan, determining long-term strategies for economic development. Additionally, PDPR acts as an incubator for new programs, designing and piloting new initiatives.

Question:

“Who does the DCEO serve?”







The Office of Illinois Works



Illinois Works was created as a result of Governor Pritzker's historic \$45 billion capital plan and his commitment to expanding equity in the Illinois' construction workforce.

- Data shows that the construction industry and the trades have not been accessible for diverse communities.
- Fewer than 10% of apprenticeships are extended to women and minorities.
- The Illinois Works Jobs Program Act was intentionally designed to increase equity and opportunity in capital construction jobs.



Illinois General Assembly



The Illinois General Assembly is the bicameral legislature of the U.S. state of Illinois and is comprised of the Illinois House of Representatives and the Illinois Senate.

The Illinois General Assembly passed the **(30 ILCS 559/) Illinois Works Jobs Program Act** on June 28th, 2019. Through the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act the Illinois **General Assembly** appropriated funds for the pre-apprenticeship program.



Illinois Works Jobs Program Act



The **Illinois Works Jobs Program Act** is a statewide initiative to ensure that all Illinois residents have access to state capital projects and careers including, in the construction industry and building trades.

The **goal** is to provide contracting and employment opportunities to historically underrepresented populations in the construction industry.

This effort specifically targets **women, people of color, and veterans**.





Accessing the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act



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30 ILCS 559/ Illinois Works Jobs Program Act.

Home / Legislation / Illinois Compiled Statutes / 30 ILCS 559/ Illinois Works Jobs Program Act.

Illinois Compiled Statutes - FINANCE
(30 ILCS 559/) Illinois Works Jobs Program Act.

Back to Act Listing



Information maintained by the Legislative Reference Bureau

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Because the statute database is maintained primarily for legislative drafting purposes, statutory changes are sometimes included in the statute database before they take effect. If the source note at the end of a Section of the statutes includes a Public Act that has not yet taken effect, the version of the law that is currently in effect may have already been removed from the database and you should refer to that Public Act to see the changes made to the current law.

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View Entire Act

Article 5 - Leveling the Playing Field for Illinois Retail Act (The Leveling the Playing Field for Illinois Retail Act is compiled at 35 ILCS 185/)

Article 10 - Parking Excise Tax Act (The Parking Excise Tax Act is compiled at 35 ILCS 525/)

Article 15 - Amendatory Provisions

Article 20 - Illinois Works Jobs Program Act

Article 25 - Sports Wagering Act (The Sports Wagering Act is compiled at 230 ILCS 45/)

Article 30 - State Fair Gaming Act (The State Fair Gaming Act is compiled at 230 ILCS 50/)

Article 35 - Amendatory Provisions

Article 99 - Severability; Effective Date



Illinois Works Jobs Program Act – Full Text

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(30 ILCS 559/Art. 5 heading)
Article 5. Leveling the Playing Field for Illinois Retail Act
(The Leveling the Playing Field for Illinois Retail Act is
compiled at 35 ILCS 185/)
(Source: P.A. 101-31, eff. 6-28-19.)

(30 ILCS 559/Art. 10 heading)
Article 10. Parking Excise Tax Act
(The Parking Excise Tax Act is compiled at 35 ILCS 525/)



Three Key Programs



The DCEO Office of Illinois Works, with the support and partnerships of communities, building trades, and the construction industry, will deliver three key programs:

Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative



Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program



Illinois Works Bid Credit Program



Illinois Works Program Goals:

- Provide a career pathway for residents in disadvantaged communities.
- Provide eligible apprentices with the skills for lifelong job security.
- Promote construction as a viable job industry for women and minority communities.
- Provide the construction industry with a consistent skilled workforce for generations to come.
- Create new partnerships between state agencies and community organizations.



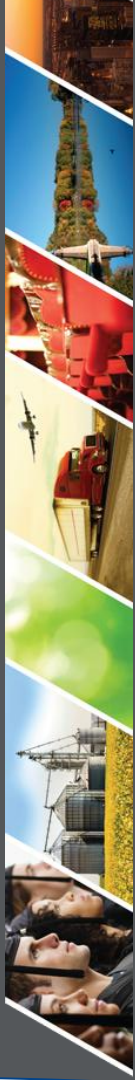
Question:

“If Illinois Works is successful in achieving its goals, what impact will it have on Illinois communities?”



Illinois Works ~ Practice Round





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Section 4: Construction and the Building Trades Data



By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Identify overarching disparities with respect to women and minorities in the building and construction trades.
- Identify disparities in compensation in the building and construction trades.
- Identify group specific data per trade.
- Explain the economic impact of increased equity.
- List the three key ILW programs.



Disparity Data





Illinois Works Jobs Program



The intent of these key programs is to expand apprenticeship opportunities, with a targeted focus on underrepresented populations.

An expansion of apprenticeship opportunities will strengthen wages and employment for more Illinois residents while supporting the broader economy, especially as construction employment is expected to grow modestly over the next decade.

Source: IDES long-term projections framework (2024–2034) Table 1, Illinois Employment Recent Performance

Illinois Female Construction Employment (2025)

Description	2025 Jobs	Median Hourly Earnings	Percent Female
All Construction Trades	198,780		3.3%
Construction Laborers	35,940	\$29.97	3.8%
Carpenters	33,180	\$37.84	2.0%
Electricians	26,130	\$43.79	2.5%
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	19,100	\$45.81	1.5%
First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades	15,930	\$43.80	3.9%
Painters, Construction and Maintenance	11,590	\$30.95	7.4%
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	12,290	\$48.26	2.8%

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security. (2025). Occupational Wage Data 2025 (Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics). Springfield, IL.



All Construction Trades

		Female				Male					
		White	Black	Other Race	Hispanic	White	Black	Other Race	Hispanic	Female	Male
	Total										
Active 6/30/21	13,548	3.1%	0.8%	0.4%	0.8%	79.7%	7.1%	8.8%	20.0%	4.3%	95.6%
Completed	4,263	2.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	75.0%	5.3%	16.0%	19.9%	3.6%	96.3%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor RAPIDS, 7/1/2015 – 6/30/2021



Carpenters

		Female				Male				Female	Male
		White	Black	Other Race	Hispanic	White	Black	Other Race	Hispanic		
	Total										
Active 6/30/21	2,339	2.2%	0.7%	0.3%	0.7%	81.4%	9.4%	6.0%	26.1%	3.2%	96.8%
Completed	593	1.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	66.9%	4.7%	26.6%	26.5%	1.5%	98.3%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor RAPIDS, 7/1/2015 – 6/30/2021



Electricians

		Female				Male					
		White	Black	Other Race	Hispanic	White	Black	Other Race	Hispanic	Female	Male
	Total										
Active 6/30/21	2,415	2.4%	0.6%	0.1%	0.4%	84.0%	6.9%	5.9%	15.8%	3.1%	96.9%
Completed	518	2.3%	0.6%	1.0%	0.8%	80.3%	9.1%	6.8%	14.5%	3.9%	96.1%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor RAPIDS, 7/1/2015 – 6/30/2021



Plumbers, Pipefitters, Steamfitters

		Female					Male				
		White	Black	Other Race	Hispanic	White	Black	Other Race	Hispanic	Female	Male
	Total										
Active 6/30/21	2,009	2.2%	0.7%	0.3%	0.5%	87.4%	4.6%	4.8%	12.3%	3.2%	96.8%
Completed	502	3.2%	0.0%	0.4%	0.8%	83.5%	4.0%	9.0%	11.0%	3.6%	96.4%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor RAPIDS, 7/1/2015 – 6/30/2021

Plumbers among
the highest earners



Construction Laborers

	Total	Female				Male				Female	Male
		White	Black	Other Race	Hispanic	White	Black	Other Race	Hispanic		
Active 6/30/21	1,589	5.5%	2.1%	1.0%	2.0%	65.8%	11.1%	14.4%	30.2%	8.6%	91.3%
Completed	532	5.6%	1.9%	0.8%	1.5%	59.2%	9.0%	23.5%	26.1%	8.3%	91.7%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor RAPIDS, 7/1/2015 – 6/30/2021

Among the lowest earners



Illinois and U.S. Labor Data

Population	U.S. Population	Illinois Population	2019 Construction/ Trade Apprentices	2021 Construction/ Trade Apprentices	2025 Construction/ Trade Apprentices	Grant Year 2025 ILW Pre-Apprenticeship Program
Women	50.5%	50.9%	4%	5%	6%	24%
African American	13.7%	14.5%	9%	9%	9%	51%
Hispanic/Latino	20.0%	19.9%	18%	17%	21%	24%
American Indian / Native Alaskan	1.3%	2.0%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Asians	6.4%	7.0%	<1%	.7%	1%	1%
Veterans	5.9%	3.8%	7%	7.1%	Not Available	1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *QuickFacts: United States and Illinois* (2025); Illinois Department of Labor. (2026). *2025 State Construction Minority and Female Building Trades Annual Report*; Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. (2025). *Program Report on the Evaluation of the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative and Preapprenticeship Program* (Enrolled participant demographics); Illinois Department of Labor RAPIDS Registered Apprenticeship Data (2019 & 2021).





Increase Equity





Economic Impact

- 
- Construction apprentices in Illinois earn a median wage of approximately **\$30/hr**
 - Journey-level skilled trades earn **\$40-\$48/hr**
 - Approximately **900% return on grant investment over 10 years** for participants who enter the skilled trades.
 - **\$11** return for every \$1 invested



Sources: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. (2025). *Program Report on the Evaluation of the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative and Preapprenticeship*; Illinois Department of Employment Security. (2025). *Occupational Wage Data (Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics)*; Bruno, R., & Manzo IV, F. (2016). *The Impact of Apprenticeship in Illinois: An Analysis of Economic and Social Effects*. University of Illinois Project for Middle Class Renewal.



Key Programs



Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative

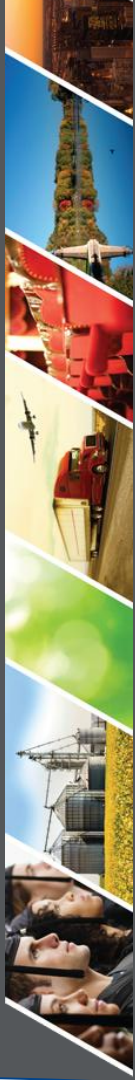


Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program



Illinois Works Bid Credit Program





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Section 5: Illinois Works Apprenticeship initiative

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative.
- Explain how the Apprenticeship Initiative contributes to a comprehensive approach to workforce development.
- Summarize the Apprenticeship Initiative's key components.
- Identify the current implementation status of the Apprenticeship Initiative.





The DCEO Office of Illinois Works, three key programs:



Illinois Works Apprenticeship
Initiative



Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship
Program



Illinois Works Bid Credit Program





Job Demand: Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative





Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative Summary



For applicable projects, the goal is for the U.S. Department of Labor certified apprentices (not limited to pre-apprentice program graduates) to perform:

- 10% of total labor hours actually worked in each prevailing wage category or
- 10% of the estimated labor hours in each prevailing wage category, whichever is less.
- 5% of the actual or estimated labor hours for each wage classification of qualifying capital construction projects are to be performed by graduates of Illinois Works, Climate Works, or Highway Construction Careers Training Programs (this is a new requirement resulting from an Illinois Works Jobs Act update signed into law in 2023).

By having an established goal, contractors generally find themselves in need to hire more apprentices resulting in higher demand for apprentices.



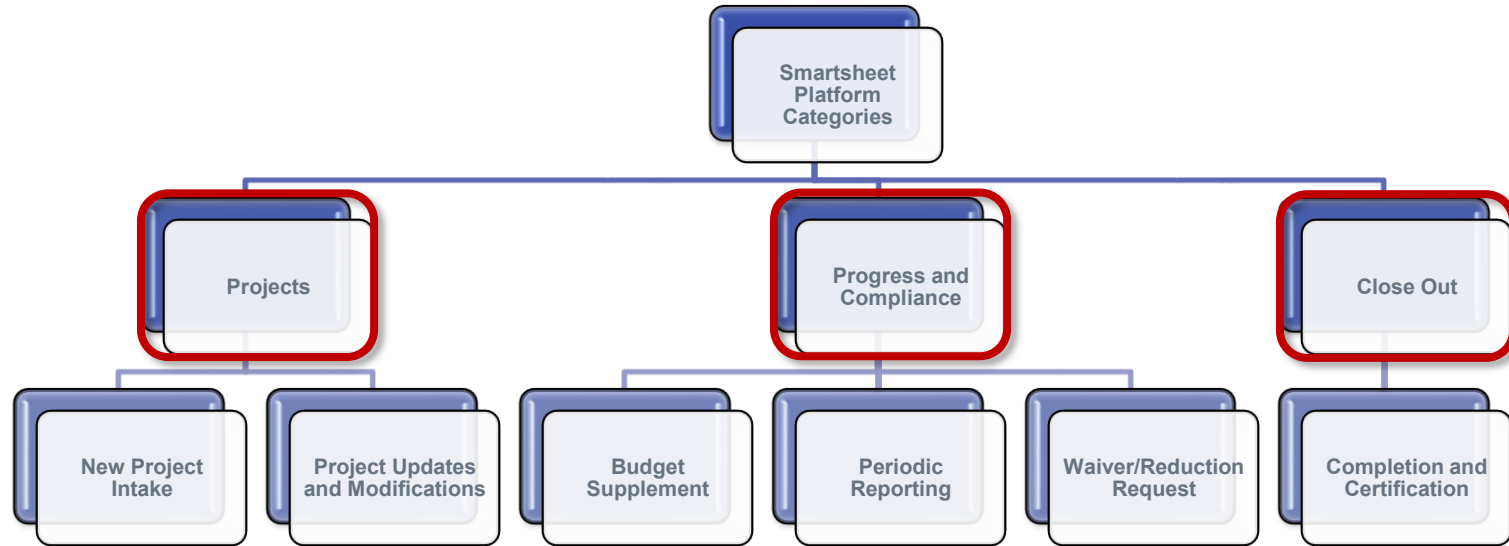
Apprenticeship Initiative Launch

- The Apprenticeship Initiative launched in June of 2020 and is presently overseeing the implementation of over **900 Projects** worth over **\$6 billion**.
- The Apprenticeship Initiative utilizes Smartsheet as a real-time compliance management platform.



Source: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. (2025). *Program Report on the Evaluation of the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative and Pre-apprenticeship—Submitted on behalf of the Illinois Works Review Panel.*







Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

Periodic Project Report Upload

Please submit your grantee/contractor's periodic project report.

Has this project previously been reported to the Illinois Works Office? *

(Previous submissions were through email or the Illinois Works intake forms.)

Yes



Agency Name *

Select

Agency Contact Name *

Agency Contact Email Address *

Project Obligation Doc Reference Number *

Provide the grant, contract, or award number as initially reported to DCEO's Office of Illinois Works.

Is this project meeting the Illinois Works apprenticeship goal? *

Select or enter value

Please provide additional details related to the status of this project.



ILLINOIS WORKS
Apprenticeship Initiative





Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity



ILLINOIS WORKS
Apprenticeship Initiative

Upload the Grantee/Contractor's Periodic Report *

Drag and drop files here or [browse files](#)

Submit



[Privacy Notice](#) | [Report Abuse](#)





Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

 Report Abuse

[illegible]



Illinois Works Mass Intake Form :



Grid View Filter Arial 10 B I U S

	Submit to DCEO	Agency Name	Division/Office/Bur...	Funding Source	Appropriation Code/Funding Source 1	Appropriation Code/Funding Source 2
1	☐	Department of Comm				
2		Capital Development Board on behalf of IHDA				
3		Capital Development Board on behalf of				
4		Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity				
5		Department of Human Services				
6		Department of Information Technology				
7		Department of Natural Resources				
8		Department of Public Health				
9		Department of Transportation				
10		Illinois Environmental Protection Agency				
		Illinois School Board of Education				
		Secretary of State				





Illinois Works Mass Intake Form :

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Appropriation
Code/Funding
Source 2

Appropri...
Code/Fun...
Source 3



1



2

3

4

5





Save



Illinois Works Mass Intake Form :

 [Report Abuse](#) 

        Arial 10               

	Prime Grantee/Contractor... Name	Prime Grantee/Co... FEIN	Specific Contract, Grant or Loan Obligation Amount ⓘ	Project Estimated Cost ⓘ	Grant/Contract/L... Start Date	Grant/Contract/L... End Date	Anticipat... or actual project start date	Anticipat... or actual project end date	Agency Contact Name	Agency Contact Email Address	Does an apprenticeship goal apply to all or part?
1											
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											
8											
9											
10											
11											
12											
13											
14											
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16											
17											
18											
19											



Illinois Works Submission Overview

(Agency Report)



	Contract/Grant/Loan Number	Prime Grantee/Contractor... Name	Prime Grantee/Contractor... FEIN	Budget Supplem... Upload	Modifica...	Periodic Project Report	Waiver/... Request...	Certifica...	IW	Project Name	Does an apprenticeship goal apply to all or part?
▼ Total Count 21											
1	19-203143	City of East Peoria	376002143	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		Construction of a multi-l	Yes
2	20-203178	Village of Northbrook	366006017	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		Storm water improveme	Yes
3	20-203185	Vernon Township	362921813	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		Roadway improvements	Yes
4	20-203185			☒	☐	☐	☐	☐			
5	20-203187	Chicago Park District	366005822	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		Design and constructor	Yes
6	20-203187			☒	☐	☐	☐	☐			
7	20-203194	Western Illinois Universi	370910458	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		Purchase and installatio	Yes
8	20-203194			☒	☐	☐	☐	☐			
9	20-203205	Chinese American Serv	362984043	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		HVAC improvements to	Yes
10	20-203215	City of Decatur	376001308	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		Costs associated with b	No
11	20-203220	Chicago Youth Centers	362344429	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		Building renovations at I	Yes
12	20-203227	Village of Elwood	362826140	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		Facility renovations and	No
13	20-203228	Village of Forest Park	366005875	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		Demolition of five deteri	Yes

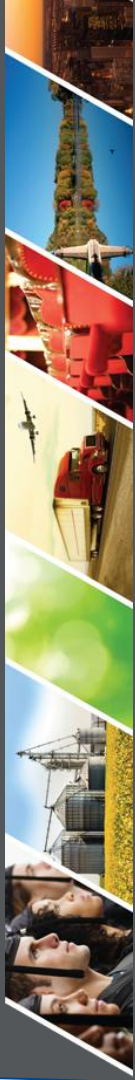




Agency Responsibilities

- Determine if the Apprenticeship Goal might apply to the project.
- Ensure the grantee/contractor completes the Budget Supplement.
- Monitor grantee/contractor compliance with apprenticeship goals.
- Review Waiver/Reduction Requests.
- Upon completion of the grant/contract, collect certification and submit it to DCEO Illinois Works Office.





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Section 6: Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Programs

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program.
- Explain how the Pre-apprenticeship Program contributes to a comprehensive approach to workforce development.
- Summarize the Pre-apprenticeship Program's key components.
- Identify the current implementation status of the Pre-apprenticeship Program.





The DCEO Office of Illinois Works, three key programs:



Illinois Works Apprenticeship
Initiative



Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship
Program



Illinois Works Bid Credit Program



Talent Pipeline: Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program





Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program



The Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program creates a qualified talent pipeline to fill job opportunities with diverse candidates. It launched in 2021 with 23 programs. The Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program currently funds 37 programs located throughout the State of Illinois, serving approximately 1,800 residents.

This program delivers pre-apprenticeship skills training through a network of community-based organizations, including community colleges, faith-based organizations, and business associations, among others.

For our grants, we strongly encourage proposals that provide training for underrepresented populations in the trades. Participants of the program attend tuition-free and receive a stipend and other supportive services to help address systemic barriers which prevent them from entering the construction industry.



2026 Grantee Manual



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity



ILLINOIS WORKS

Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

2026 Grantee Manual

Illinois Works
Pre-Apprenticeship Program

January, 2026



ILLINOIS WORKS
Pre-Apprenticeship Program

Section 3. State Staff Roles	AD/ Admin Programs	Grant Illinois	
Section 4. Overview	Levers Admin	Wh	
Section 5. Programmatic Monitoring	Outre	Ors	
Section 6. Audit Requirements	Outre	Illit	
Section 7. Training Plans for Program Management and Continuous Improvement	Outre		
Section 8. Audit Requirements	App		
Section 9. Audit Requirements	App		
Section 10. Audit Requirements	App		
Section 11. Audit Requirements	App		
Section 12. Audit Requirements	App		
Section 13. Training Plans for Program Management and Continuous Improvement	App		
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Section 100. Audit Requirements	App		



Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program Summary



In summary, the program provides:

- **Pre-apprenticeship skills training** through a network of community-based organizations.
- **Preference to underrepresented populations** that have historically encountered barriers to entry or advancement in the trades.
- **Free Tuition and a stipend** to participants who attend the program.
- An estimated **\$12M in total program funding**.



ILW Pre-Apprenticeship Program Current Status

In the **2026 Grant Year:**

- **37** Funded Providers
- **16** New Grants Awarded
- **21** Renewed Grants
- Serving over **1,500** Illinois Residents
- **569** Participants Enrolled





Performance-Based Payment Model





Metrics

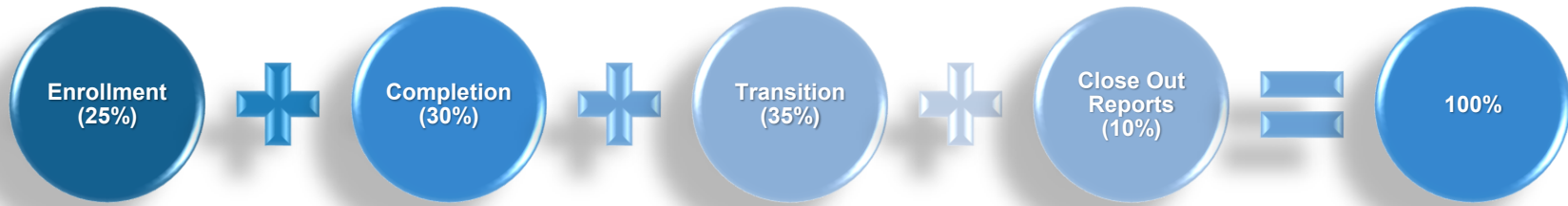


- Enrollment
- Completion
- Transition
- Close out reports





Traditional Funding Benchmarks





Illinois Works Reporting System (IWRS)





IWRS Example



EDIT CUSTOMER SERVICE

Profile: Jane Dooerr

Email: testingjane23@test.com

User Name: JDooerr

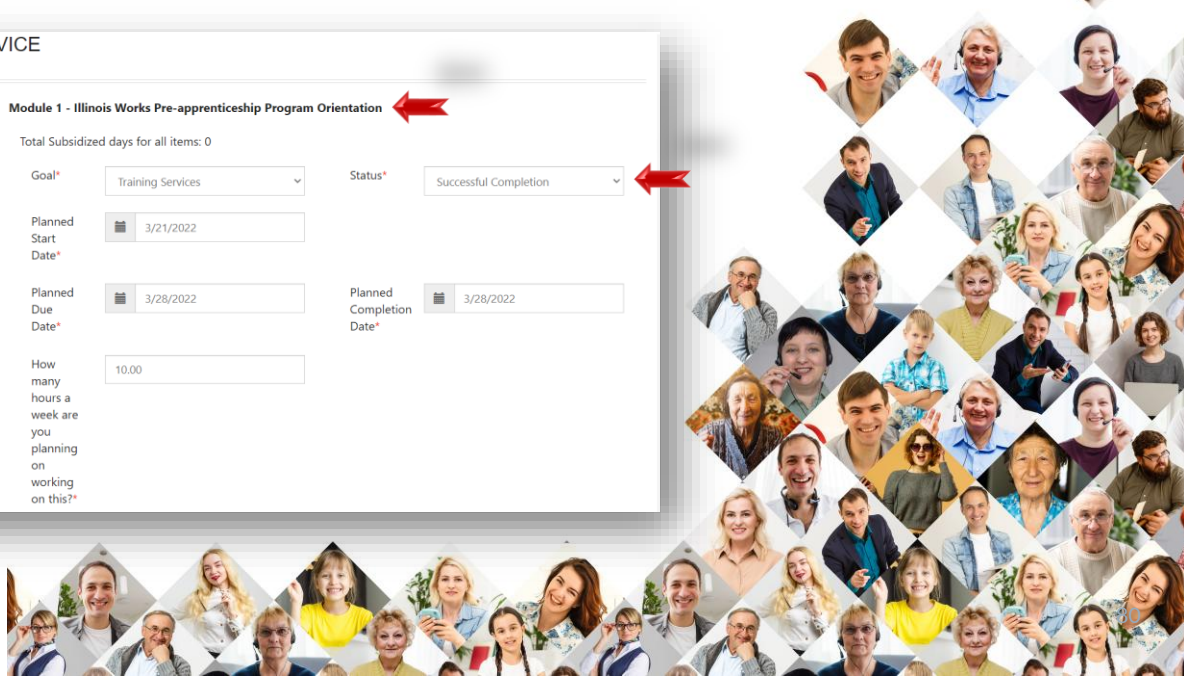
Last 4 SSN: [See All](#)

[Reset Password](#) [Send Message](#)

Module 1 - Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program Orientation 

Total Subsidized days for all items: 0

Goal*	Training Services	Status*	Successful Completion 
Planned Start Date*	3/21/2022		
Planned Due Date*	3/28/2022	Planned Completion Date*	3/28/2022
How many hours a week are you planning on working on this?*	10.00		





IWRS Program Completion

 **ILLINOIS WORKS REPORTING SYSTEM FOLLOW-UP**

Overview

Intake

Training/Services

Program Completion/Follow-Up

FOLLOW-UP

Profile: Jane Dooerr

Email testingjane23@test.com

DOB 2/15/1998

Last 4 SSN

See All

Enter Program Completion Status

Add Completion Status

Add Case Note

Current Completion Status: Complete & In Transition

ADD STATUS

Completion Status *

Select Status

Select Status

Complete

Complete & In Transition

Incomplete

Post Program Active Tracking

Long Term Tracking

3500 Engagements Tracked



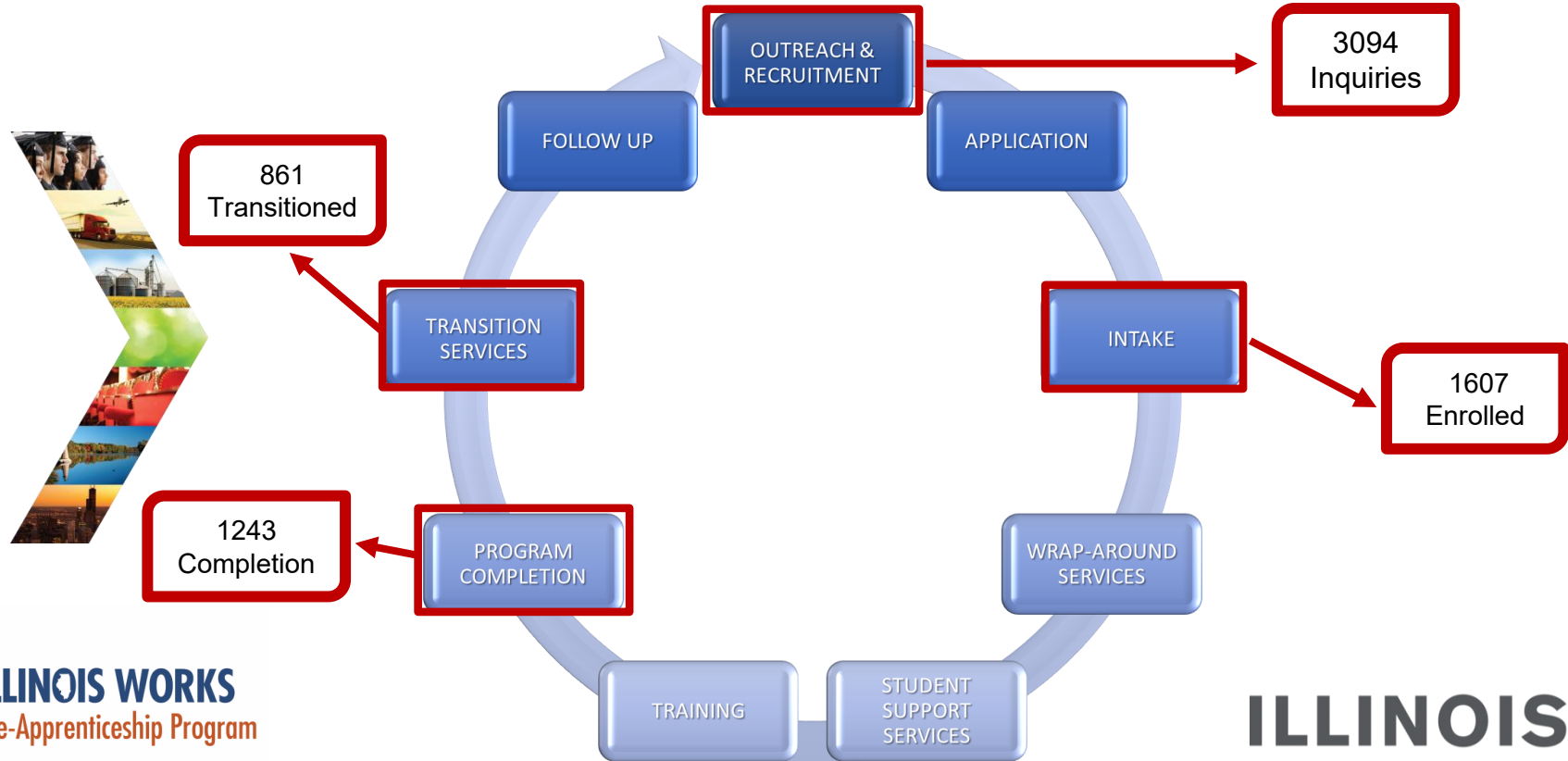


Pre-Apprentice LifeCycle

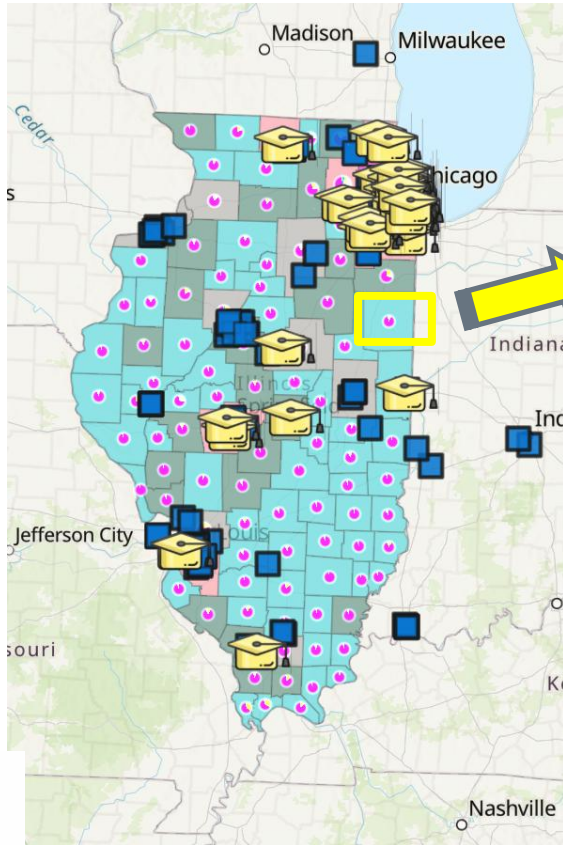




Program Elements Data

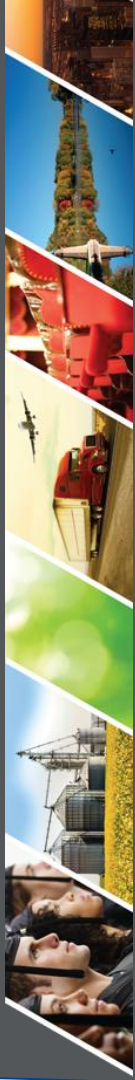


ILW Heat Map



Name	Iroquois County
2020 Total Population	27,077
Area in square miles	1,118.88
County FIPS	075
FIPS	17075
Number_of_Projects	2
People per square mile	24.20
State Abbreviation	IL
State FIPS	17





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Section 7: Illinois Works Bid Credit Programs

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the Illinois Works Bid Credit Program.
- Explain how the Bid Credit Program contributes to a comprehensive approach to workforce development.
- Summarize the Bid Credit Program key components.
- Identify the current implementation status of the Bid Credit Program.





The DCEO Office of Illinois Works, three key programs:



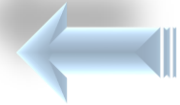
Illinois Works Apprenticeship
Initiative



Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship
Program



Illinois Works Bid Credit Program





Incentives to Hire and Retain: Bid Credit Program





Bid Credit Overview



The **Illinois Works Bid Credit Program** incentivizes contractors to hire and retain a diverse pool of candidates. It allows contractors and subcontractors to earn bid credits by employing apprentices who have completed the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program. Bid credits can be used toward future bids for public works projects contracted by the State of Illinois or an agency of the state.

Illinois Works Bid Credit Program Summary

In summary, the program provides:

- 
- **The Illinois Works Bid Credit Program allows contractors and subcontractors** to earn bid credits for use toward future bids for public works projects contracted by the state or an agency of the state.
 - **Bid credits can only be earned** for employing apprentices who have completed the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program, but they can be earned for any project the graduate works.
 - DCEO establishes the bid credit earning rates for all prevailing wage construction trades. This rate is reviewed and revised annually.
 - There is no maximum for bid credits that can be earned by contractors and/or subcontractors and no limit to the number of ILW Pre-apprenticeship graduates they can hire. **The Illinois Works Bid Credit Bank** is administered by DCEO as mechanism for tracking the bid credits.
 - Bid credits can be pooled between multiple contractors and/or subcontractors for a single capital funded projects but there will have a maximum allowable bid credit amount for each project based on the estimated project cost.



Job Search & Hiring Support: Illinois Works Career Services



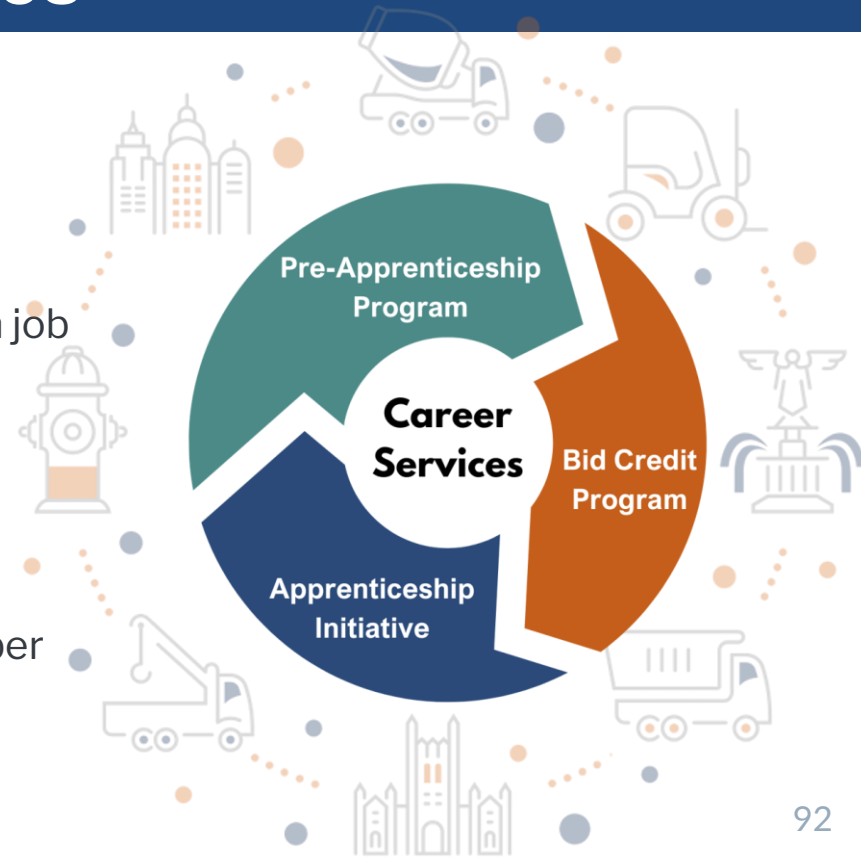


Illinois Works Career Services

Illinois Works recently launched the Career Services Team, designed specifically to:

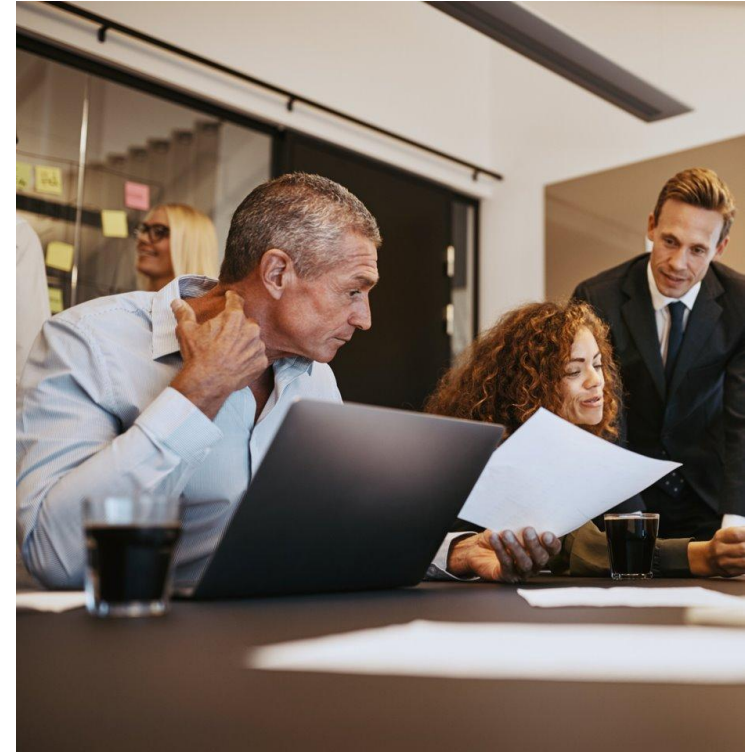
- Build relationships with DOL RAPs.
- Directly connect employers and graduates through job matching.
- Create and provide customized lists of graduates.
- Provide long-term transition support to graduates.

The main goal of Illinois Works is to increase the number of Illinois Works pre-apprentices gaining employment and entry into the DOL RAPs of their choice.



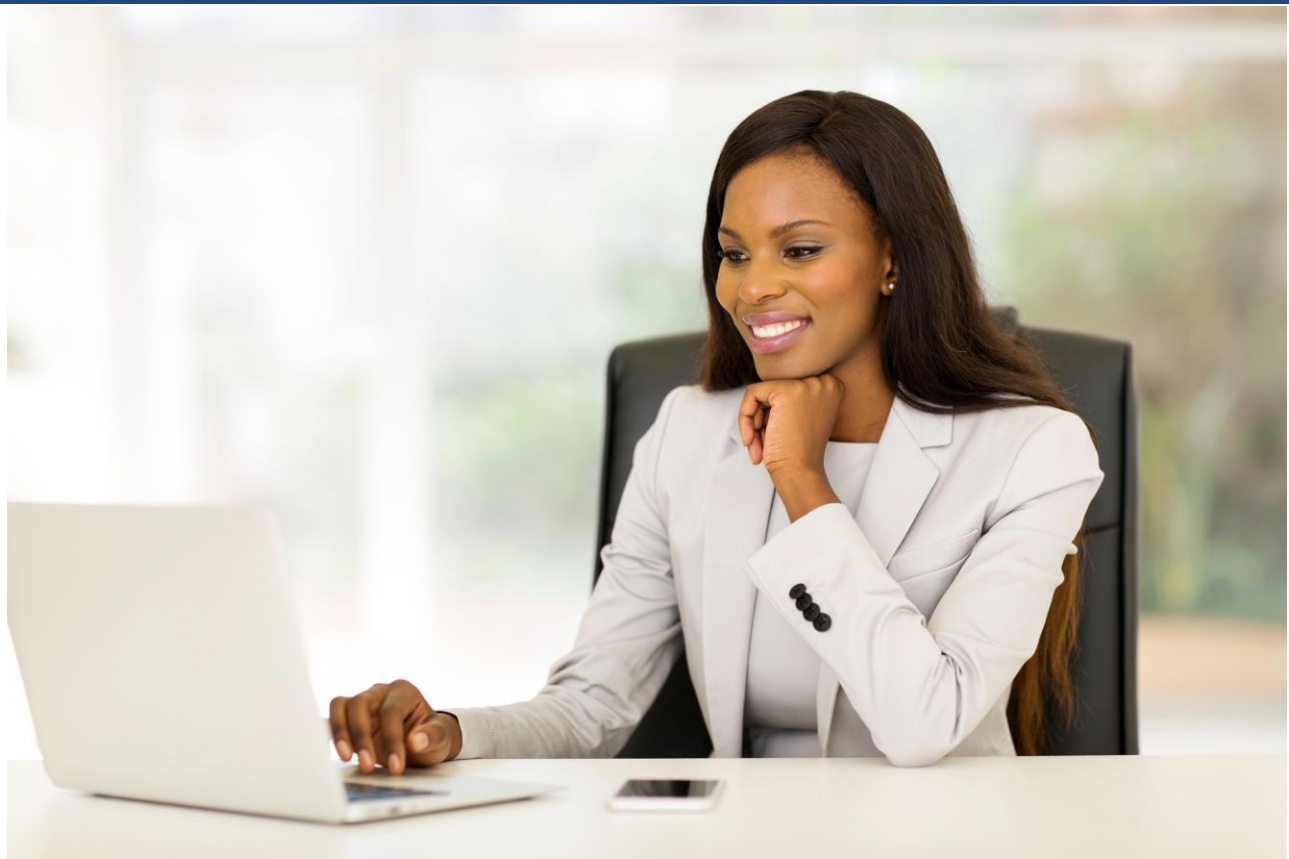
Connecting to Illinois Works Graduates – Job Matching

- The **Illinois Works Career Service Team** facilitates job matching. This highly effective team works hard to ensure a seamless and efficient process.
- Contractor's, only need to submit a **job order** though the **Illinois Works Employer Form** and specify their employment needs.
- This user-friendly form allows the Illinois Works Career Services Team to send a list of Illinois Works graduates that match their job requirements.
- The job order form is also used by contractors to provide follow-up information about the graduates they might have screened or hired from the list they received.



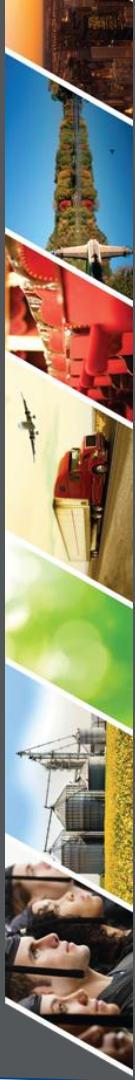


Career Pathway Management Platform



Illinois Works ~ Practice Round





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Section 8: DCEO Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)



By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Access the DCEO Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).
- Access the GATA Pre-qualification training.
- Describe the information available from the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship NOFO 2026 website.
- Download the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program NOFO.



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Release Date:
09/03/2026

Governor Pritzker Announces Applications Open for Next Round of Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program

Eligible entities can now apply for the sixth round of funding through Illinois Works

CHICAGO – Today, Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced applications are now open for the sixth round of the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program. The Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program provides training opportunities, expands the talent pipeline, and boosts diversity in the construction industry and building trades. Grantees will be selected through a competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) process.

"Illinois Works is about opening doors to opportunity and giving every Illinoisan a clear path to a good career and a good life," said Governor JB Pritzker. "This latest round of funding will build on our continued success investing in our people, fostering a diverse talent pipeline, and giving businesses the skilled workforce they need to grow and thrive in our state."

"Illinois Works is an invaluable asset, creating opportunities for all Illinoisans, including good-paying jobs in the trades. These opportunities are especially meaningful for expanding diversity in the workforce," said Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton. "We're committed to making Illinois the best place to live, work and raise a family. Bettering our infrastructure and creating long-term success is key to doing just that."

This round of \$25 million in funding will increase the representation of underrepresented groups – including people of color, veterans, and women in the construction trades. This round of the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program will fund up to 45 programs throughout the state including new grantees, serving nearly 2,000 residents.

"The Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program is a great example of how the state prioritizes investments in our world-class workforce," said DCEO Director Kristian Richards. "Through this program, we are continuing to create a diverse pipeline of talent ensuring Illinois continues to be a leader in the construction trades."

The Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program launched in 2021 with the goal of increasing access to apprenticeship programs to a more diverse pool of candidates. These comprehensive pre-apprenticeship programs help participants gain admission to apprenticeship programs, which provide graduates a greater opportunity to start a long-term career in the trades. Since the program's inception Illinois Works has awarded over \$70 million serving over 7,000 residents.

Participants of the program attend tuition-free and receive a stipend and other supportive, barrier reduction services, to help enter the construction industry. Upon completion of the program, pre-apprenticesees receive industry aligned certifications, which will prepare and qualify them to continue to a registered apprenticeship program in the trades.

Illinois Works is expanding DCEO's statewide network of providers to recruit, prescreen, and provide pre-apprenticeship skills training. The program providers offer structured pathways and manage the program graduates' transition from the pre-apprenticeship program to a registered apprenticeship program in construction and the building trades.

"I'm thrilled to hear about the continued success of the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program," said Representative Will Davis. "Creating a diverse pipeline of talent is critical to ensuring all Illinoisans have an opportunity to succeed and obtain a good paying job that result in long term careers."

"Initiatives like the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program are crucial in preparing the next generation of Illinoisans for careers in the construction trades," said Senator Cristina Castro. "The success of this program has been transformative for not only the residents of Illinois but for the state's overall economic development."

Eligible applicants include non-profit, community-based organizations, such as industry associations, chambers of commerce, local workforce areas, community colleges, technical schools, and school districts. Experienced and new providers are encouraged to apply, along with existing Illinois Works grantees who propose to serve a different geographic area or Economic Development Region than they were originally contracted to serve. Priority will be given to applicants serving priority Economic Development Regions and underrepresented populations as outlined in the NOFO.

Qualified entities can apply for grants between \$150,000 to \$550,000. Applications will be accepted until October 2, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. To view the NOFO and apply for the grant, please visit the DCEO website. Interested parties are encouraged to reach out to CEO.GrantInfo@illinois.gov for application assistance. To help applicants prepare to apply for funding, DCEO will also be providing technical assistance in the form of webinars, regional meetings, and FAQ.

NOFO ID: 2614-4323

Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program

NOFO ID: 2614-4323

For information about grants please visit:
<https://dceo.illinois.gov/dceo-grants.html>

A. Program Description

1. Notice of Funding Opportunity Intent

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the "Department" or "DCEO") is issuing a Notice of Funding Opportunity ("NOFO") to expand the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program. The Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program is administered by the Department's Office of Illinois Works.

The goal of the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act (30 ILCS 559/20-10) is to ensure that all Illinois residents have access to State capital projects and careers in the construction industry and building trades, as well as provide contracting and employment opportunities to historically underrepresented populations in the construction industry and the trades. The Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship program is a critical component in the success of the Act, by increasing the number of qualified construction and building apprentices who are women, people of color, veterans or from otherwise underrepresented populations (as defined in A.3. Program Description) and preparing them to enter full apprenticeship programs on their way to careers in construction and the building trades.

NOFO is focused, although not exclusively, on awarding grants in geographic areas where the Office of Illinois Works does not presently have pre-apprenticeship programs and to increase the representation of underrepresented groups that presently are not served or are underserved by existing programs including individuals of Asian descent, Veterans, and Women, among others. This NOFO is open to all Economic Development Regions, but the following regions and counties are strongly encouraged to

Central Region (Region 1) - Sangamon County

North Central Region (Region 3) - Peoria County, McLean County

Northeast Region (Region 4) - DeKalb County, DuPage County, Kane County, Kankakee County, Kendall County, McHenry County, Suburban Cook County, Will County

Northwest Region (Region 6) - LaSalle County, Rock Island County, Whiteside County

Southeast Region (Region 7) - Marion County, Lawrence County

Southern Region (Region 8) - Jackson County

geographic boundaries of these Economic Development Regions go to:
<https://illinois.gov/illinoisworks/preapprenticeship.html>.

2. History

The Illinois Works Jobs Program Act ("Illinois Works Act"), 30 ILCS 559 et seq. authorized the creation of Illinois Works in 2019. This act outlined the development of three key programs: the Job Training Initiative, the Pre-apprenticeship Program and the Bid Credit Program.



NOFO Goal



The **goal** of the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program is to provide grants to community-based organizations (including an accredited public college or university) or coalitions throughout the State that will recruit, prescreen, and provide pre- apprenticeship skills training. Successful grantees will be expected to provide pathways and manage the transition from the pre-apprenticeship program to a full apprenticeship program in construction and the building trades.

The Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program funds programs throughout the State of Illinois. This **NOFO** is **focused** on awarding grants in geographic areas where the Office of Illinois Works does not presently have pre-apprenticeship programs and to increase the representation of underrepresented groups that presently are not served or are underserved by existing programs.

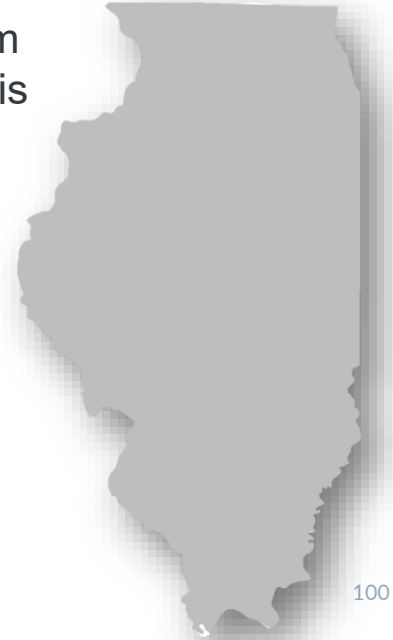


2026 ILW Grantees



Presently, the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program funds 37 programs located throughout the State of Illinois that represent five different models;

- School districts
- Small and medium non-profit
- Large non-profit
- Community colleges
- Business associations





NOFO Focus

The 2026 NOFO is focused on awarding grants in geographic areas where the Office of Illinois Works does not presently have pre-apprenticeship programs, with the goal of increasing the representation of underrepresented groups that presently are not served or underserved populations including individuals of Asian descent, Veterans, and Women, among others.

Geographic priority areas include:

- Central Region (Region 1) - Sangamon County
- North Central Region (Region 3) – Peoria County, McLean County
- Northeast Region (Region 4) – DeKalb County, DuPage County, Kane County, Kankakee County, Kendall County, McHenry County, Suburban Cook County, Will County
- Northwest Region (Region 6) – LaSalle County, Rock Island County, Whiteside County
- Southeast Region (Region 7) – Marion County, Lawrence County
- Southern Region (Region 8) – Jackson County





Application Criteria



- Experienced and New Providers
- Existing Illinois Works Grantees





Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

GATA Pre-qualification ~ Website



Announcements

- **NOFO EMAIL NOTICES:** Subscribe to a weekly mailing list to receive an email that announces all new Notice of Funding Opportunities, or NOFOs, published the previous calendar week. To subscribe:
 1. Send an email To: subscribe-omb-gata-grants@lists.illinois.gov
 2. Leave the Subject and the Body of the message blank
 3. Questions regarding NOFO email notices can be directed to OMB.GATA@illinois.gov
- NOTE: Due to high demand, SAM.gov is experiencing processing delays validating entity legal business names and addresses. Help tickets at SAM.gov are handled on a first in first out basis. They advise against reporting the same incident multiple times.
- Per M-21-20, entities can apply for funding without an active SAM.gov registration. However, a state agency cannot award a grant to an entity without an active SAM.gov account.
- [COVID Resources](#)

Grant Accountability and Transparency Act

The **Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA)**, 30 ILCS 708/1 et seq., is landmark legislation that will increase accountability and transparency in the use of grant funds while reducing the administrative burden on both State agencies and grantees through adoption of the federal grant guidance and regulations codified at 2 CFR Part 200 (Uniform Requirements). Pursuant to the Act, the **Grant Accountability and Transparency Unit (GATU)** has been established in the Governor's Office of Management and Budget. GATU is charged with implementation of the Act in coordination with State grant-making agencies and grantees. The following links provide a direct connection to:

[Illinois Compiled Statutes](#) that established GATA

[Illinois Administrative Rules](#) for GATA

[Uniform Requirements in 2 CFR 200](#) in 2 CFR 200

Please see our annual reports for more information:

[Annual Report 2021](#)

[Previous years](#)





GATA Pre-qualification

Information Sessions

For comments, feedback, or questions email the Office of Illinois Works at CEO.ILWorks@illinois.gov.



Event Name	Type of Event	Event Date and Time	Registration/Resources
Intro to ILW	Webinar	September 8, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration
GATA	Webinar	September 10, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration
Bidders Conference	Webinar	September 15, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration
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Webinar Recordings

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Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship NOFO 2026 Website



ILLINOIS WORKS PRE-APPRENTICESHIP NOFO 2026

Background

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the "Department" or "DCEO") is issuing this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to expand the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program. The Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program is administered by the Department's Office of Illinois Works.

The goal of the Illinois Works Act is to ensure that all Illinois residents have access to State capital projects and careers in the construction industry and building trades, as well as provide contracting and employment opportunities to historically underrepresented populations in the construction industry and the trades. The Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship NOFO and program is a critical component in the success of the Act, by increasing the number of qualified construction and building trades apprentices who are women, people of color, veterans or from otherwise underrepresented populations (as defined by the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act) and preparing them to enter full apprenticeship programs on their way to careers in construction and the building trades.

This NOFO is focused, although not exclusively, on awarding grants in geographic areas where the Office of Illinois Works does not presently have pre-apprenticeship programs and to increase the representation of underrepresented groups that presently are not served or are underserved by existing programs including individuals of Asian descent, Veterans, and Women, among others. This NOFO is open to all Economic Development Regions, but the following regions and counties are strongly encouraged to apply:

- Central Region (Region 1) - Sangamon County
- North Central Region (Region 3) - Peoria County, McLean County
- Northeast Region (Region 4) - DeKalb County, DuPage County, Kane County, Kankakee County, Kendall County, McHenry County, Suburban Cook County, Will County
- Northwest Region (Region 6) - LaSalle County, Rock Island County, Whiteside County
- Southeast Region (Region 7) - Marion County, Lawrence County
- Southern Region (Region 8) - Jackson County

[View the geographic boundaries of these Economic Development Regions](#)



Program Design

The Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program provides grants to community-based organizations (including an accredited public college or university) or coalitions throughout the State that will recruit, prescreen, provide pre-apprenticeship skills training, and transition participants to U.S. Department of Labor (US DOL) Registered Apprenticeship Programs. Successful grantees are expected to provide pathways and manage the transition from the pre-apprenticeship program to a full apprenticeship program in construction and the building trades.

This NOFO will use the definitions established in the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act, including the definitions for "community-based organizations" and "underrepresented populations." It will also use the State of Illinois definition for a pre-apprenticeship program which appears in the [Illinois Career Pathways Dictionary](#). Besides the following definitions and frameworks, additional information and resources are included in the Appendix of this NOFO.

Community-based organization: The Illinois Works Act establishes that "community-based organization" means a nonprofit organization, including an accredited public college or university, selected by the Department to participate in the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program. To qualify as a "community-based organization," the organization must demonstrate the following:

- the ability to effectively serve diverse and underrepresented populations, including by providing employment services to such populations;
- knowledge of the construction and building trades;
- the ability to recruit, prescreen, and provide pre-apprenticeship training to prepare workers for employment in construction and the building trades; and a plan to provide the following preparatory classes;
- workplace readiness skills, such as resume preparation and interviewing techniques;

FAQs



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - forthcoming

NOFO Materials

- Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship NOFO
- Uniform Application
- Budget Template
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- Mandatory Disclosure
- Attachment I - Proposed Work Plan
- Attachment II - Participant Demographics and Outcome Summary
- Attachment III - Sample Curriculum and Proposed Curriculum
- Attachment IV - Staffing Plan





Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship NOFO 2026 Website



- workplace readiness skills, such as resume preparation and interviewing techniques;
- strategies for overcoming barriers to entry and completion of an apprenticeship program; and
- any prerequisites for acceptance into an apprenticeship program.

Funding Information

This grant program is utilizing state funds appropriated by Public Act 104-0464. Total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is \$12,000,000. Awards will range from \$150,000 to \$550,000. The Department expects to make 25 awards through this NOFO.

The period of performance is expected to be January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027. Grants will be awarded for one year with the potential for renewal/modification for up to two additional years for successful projects that meet and exceed the required program services and outcome metrics.

Submission Details

Application

Applicants must submit a project narrative that describes in detail how the award will be executed. The project narrative should include enough information for DCEO to understand the scope of the project, the budget, including a detailed breakdown of the costs associated with each budget line and any additional necessary detail to enable DCEO to manage the grant agreement activity against planned project performance. The Project Narrative must include evidence of capacity, quality and need as defined in Section E.1.

Due date for application materials is Friday, October 2nd, 2026 by 5:00pm CST unless otherwise extended in accordance with GATA or its' implementing regulations.

For detailed information about the funding opportunity and instruction on how to apply, see the full NOFO, as well as required documents, linked under NOFO Materials.

Notice of Intent to Apply

The Department requests that applicants submit a Notice of Intent to Apply by Thursday, September 10th, 2026. The Notice of Intent to Apply should be a one page document that includes the name of the lead applicant and the regions served. Submitting the Notice of Intent to Apply is optional and will assist the Department in planning the merit review of applications.

These letters will help the Department determine merit reviewer needs.

Award Timeline

Applications are due by October 2nd, 2026 by 5:00pm.

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Resources

NOFO References

- 360-Degree Focus on Equity
- Executive Order #3: Action Agenda for Workforce Development and Job Creation
- Illinois Career Pathways Dictionary
- Illinois Department of Labor, 2021 State Construction Minority and Female Building Trades Annual Report
- Illinois Essential Employability Skills Framework
- Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program 2026 Grantee Manual
- Illinois Workforce Innovation Board, Apprenticeship Illinois Committee Quarterly Report June 2021
- The Essentials of a High-Quality Pre-apprenticeship Program, Jobs for the Future, 2019
- United States Department of Labor, Training and Employment Notice 13-12
- United States Department of Labor, Discover Apprenticeship: Earn While You Learn Today
- U.S. Dept of Labor, Registered Apprenticeship Partners Information Database System (RAPIDS)

Resources for Competitive Applications

- Apprenticeship Illinois
- Grant Accountability and Transparency Act
- Illinois Career Pathways Dictionary
- Regional and Local Workforce Plans
- State of Illinois WIOA ePolicy Portal
- State of Illinois WIOA Unified State Plan
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation Talent Pipeline Management Initiative
- U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Employment and Training, Office of Apprenticeship
- WIOA Regional/Local Plans by Economic Development Region
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014

Resources on National Best Practices for Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Programs

- 2020 Construction Apprenticeship Guidebook (Seattle)
- Broadening the Apprenticeship Pipeline (National Skills Coalition)
- Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Programs (Aspen Institute)
- Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Programs: Results from a National Survey



2026 NOFO Resources



Resources

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- Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Programs (Aspen Institute)
- Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Programs: Results from a National Survey (Aspen Institute)
- Illinois Tollway Construction Works Brochure
- Illinois Tollway Construction Works Online Application Portal
- Illinois Tollway Construction Works Website
- Key Capacities of Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Programs (Aspen Institute)
- Pre-Apprenticeships: Building Strong Apprentices (Workforce GPS)
- Seattle PACT Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Training
- YOUTHBUILD Construction Plus Framework

Resources on National Best Practices for Equity Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Programs

- The Roadmap for Racial Equity (National Skills Coalition)
- Principles for a High-Quality Pre-Apprenticeship: A Model to Advance Equity (Center for Law and Social Policy CLASP)
- Collaborative Solutions for Increasing Diversity of Apprenticeship Participants (Workforce GPS)
- Closing the Divide: Making Illinois a Leader in Equitable Apprenticeships (Young Invincibles)
- Growing Equity and Diversity Through Apprenticeship: Business Perspectives (JFF Center for Apprenticeship and Work-based Learning)
- Flowchart of Equitable Apprenticeship Models (Young Invincibles and Chicago Jobs Council)





Illinois Works Informational Sessions

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2026 NOFO Materials



FAQs



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

forthcoming



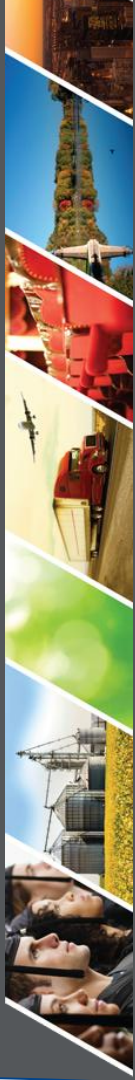
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Illinois Works ~ Practice Round





CEO.ILWorks@Illinois.Gov



Feedback ~ We want to hear from you



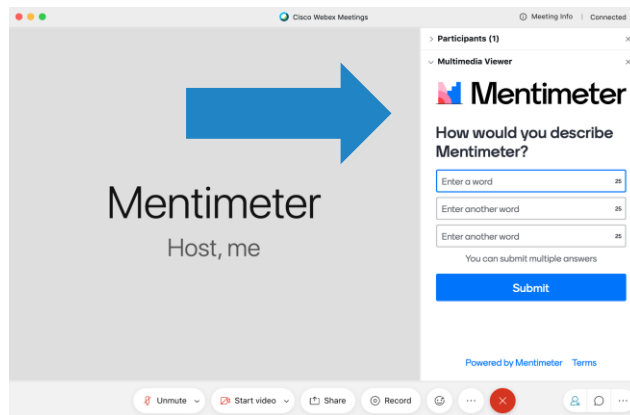
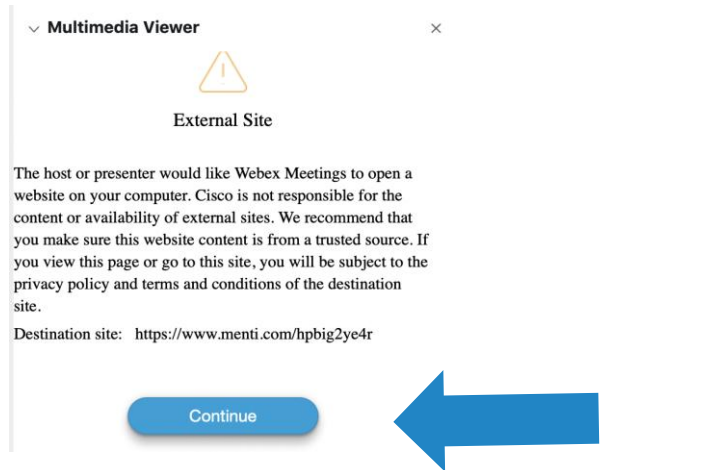


- ▶ On the right-hand of your Webex screen click the blue **Continue** button.
- ▶ Once you click the button the Mentimeter app will show in the Multimedia viewer.



Link: [menti.com](https://www.menti.com)
Code: 2221 7462

Direct: <https://www.menti.com/al8q4sy98z9g>



Thank You!



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor