



April 2026 BCP Newsletter

Chicago Women in Trade's April 2026 Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program Graduation



Congratulations to Chicago Women in Trade's (CWIT) April 2026 graduating cohort! Pictured above are Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship graduates that are eligible to earn contractors Bid Credits when they are successfully hired and enrolled/sponsored into a Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP).

If you are interested in finding a Qualified Apprentice to start earning Bid Credits, you can either reach out to Illinois Works Career Services via email at ceo.ilwcareerservices@Illinois.gov or use one of the links below!

[Illinois Works Job Order Request](#)

[Illinois Works Graduate List Request](#)

Need Help Navigating the IL Works Bid Credit Program?



We're Here to Help!

Join our Technical Assistance (TA) open office hours, held **EVERY Thursday from 10am-11am**. No RSVP is required!! Drop in anytime between 10am - 11am for individualized, one-on-one assistance with technological tools or just general questions about IL Works Bid Credit Program. We can even help get you registered with the Bid Credit Program, complete an Apprenticeship Report (to request bid credits), or direct you to ILW Career Services so you can find your next Qualified Apprentice.

Join the Webex link below:

[https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?
MTID=m91f9558125f6f6179e96d9c10a962208](https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m91f9558125f6f6179e96d9c10a962208)

You can also email us directly at CEO.BidCreditProgram@illinois.gov. We look forward to hearing from you!

Additionally, for the month of May, we are excited to offer a series of themed TA sessions each week, presenting a new topic to explore and learn about.

Date	TA Session Title	TA Session Goal
May 7, 2026	What is the Office of Illinois Works?	Educate contractors and other stakeholders about the Office of Illinois Works and its functions.
May 14, 2026	What is the Illinois Works Bid Credit Program?	Educate contractors about the Illinois Works Bid Credit Program (BCP) and help them register with the BCP.
May 21, 2026	What is a Qualified Apprentice?	Connect contractors with a representative from Illinois Works Career Services to help locate a Qualified Apprentice.
May 28, 2026	What is an Apprenticeship Report?	Educate contractors on how to fill out the Apprenticeship Report

which is how to request Bid Credits.

Reminder, no RSVP is needed. Simply join the Webex meeting during any of the dates above from 10 am to 11 am if you want to learn more!

Join Webex

It Was March Madness for the Bid Credit Program Team!



(Pictured above from left to right: Marisa Litoborski, ASA; Rosalia Boccardi, Bid Credit Program)

March brought a whirlwind of events for the construction and building trades industry, and the Bid Credit Program (BCP) Team made every effort to keep up with the momentum! Whether hosting a vendor booth or just attending, several construction expos and safety conferences were on the roster for the BCP Team in March!

Why do we attend all these events? The BCP is the main source of outreach for all of our Office of IL Works (ILW) Programs. Attending all these events allows us to meet YOU! We strive to educate you about all ILW Programs, while making meaningful connections along the way!

Whether you are new to ILW and want to learn more, or ready to start earning bid credits and want to find a [Qualified Apprentice](#), we are here to help! Our **Thursday Technical Assistance Sessions** are always a great place to start. **Just click this [Webex link](#) anytime between 10-11am on Thursdays for one-on-one assistance!**



(Pictured above: Rosalia Boccardi, Bid Credit Program)

Events Attended:

Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative Information Webinar



A monthly information webinar on the Apprenticeship Initiative Overview for Contractors/Grantees/Loan Recipients and consulting engineers will be delivered on April 30, 2026.

You can also visit the Apprenticeship Initiative's website to learn more about the Compliance requirements for State projects \$500K+:
<https://dceo.illinois.gov/illinois-works/apprenticeship.html>

[Register Here](#)

How Can You Start Earning Bid Credits?

FIRST, in order for you to earn Bid Credits, your employee/apprentice **MUST** be a **Qualified Apprentice**. What exactly is a Qualified Apprentice? A Qualified Apprentice is an employee who meets **ALL** of the following criteria:

- has graduated from an [Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program](#)
- is actively enrolled in a USDOL-Registered Apprenticeship Program in the construction trades
- is 6 years or less from the date enrolled in the USDOL- Registered Apprenticeship Program

If you have hired a **Qualified Apprentice**, here is an example of how much you **could** earn in a year (Using the highest and lowest paid trades according to IDOL):

Trade Title	Mean Prevailing Wage Effective 1/30/2026	Bid Credit Earnings for 1 Year (2,080 hours)	Bid Credit Earnings for 6 Years (12,480 hours)
Electric Power Lineman	\$65.47	\$68,088.80	\$408,532.80
Painter Over 30 Ft.	\$34.61	\$35,994.40	\$215,966.40

(Bid Credits can be calculated by taking the hours your Qualified Apprentice worked X the mean prevailing wage for the trade worked X \$0.50)

Find out how much your trade can earn!

[Click Here!](#)

Newsletter Highlight & ILWPP Graduate Success Stories

We love graduate success stories! We also would love a chance to feature your company/organization/graduate in our newsletter!

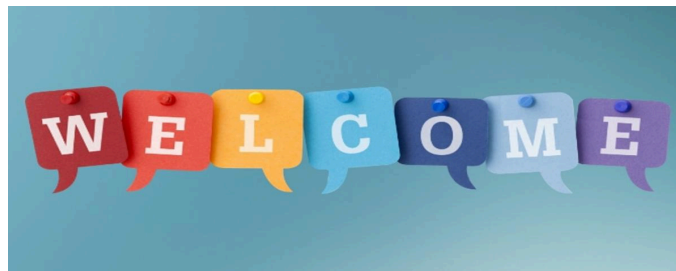
Do you have an ILWPP graduate/apprentice that you would like to recognize for their remarkable achievement or for overcoming a significant challenge?

If so, please submit the following [form](#) and someone from the BCP team will be in touch with you.

[BCP Newsletter Highlight Form](#)

April 2026 New Contractor Shoutout!

- Franto Environmental, Inc.
- TGX Contractors LLC
- Crisof Cleaning Services LLC



Bid Credit Launch Q&A

Click on each box for the answer!

[How Much Can I Earn?](#)

[Is My Apprentice Bid Credit Eligible?](#)

[Bid Credit Submission Tips?](#)

Illinois Works In the News

- [Illinois Ranks #1 for Workforce Development in Midwest, Climbs to #3 in the Nation](#)
- [Illinois pre-apprenticeship programs boost tradesworker diversity](#)
- [Illinois leads Midwest in workforce development](#)
- [HIRE360 To Celebrate First Graduating Class Of Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program In Will County](#)



Upcoming Bid Credit Program Events

If you have an upcoming meeting or event where you think the BCP Team could outreach the advantages of the program to your organization, email us at CEO.BidCreditProgram@illinois.gov.

Upcoming Bid Credit Program Webinars

Advantages of the Bid Credit Program Webinar

This **UPDATED** informational webinar will provide updates from the administrative rules that have been approved.

Effectively Earning Bid Credits Webinar

This **NEW** webinar will provide instructions on how to use our Bid Credit platform and how to earn Bid Credits.

Please check our [website](#) for upcoming dates and times for both webinars! Keep an eye out for another email from us with webinar dates and times, as well as registration links!

Timeline to Launch

Are you prepared now that the BCP has launched? Please follow the steps below to ensure your company is ready:

1. [Register](#) for your own BCP Account Number
2. Bookmark the [BCP Webpage](#)
3. [Request](#) an ILWPP graduate
4. Review the [Contractor Registry](#) for networking opportunities
5. Begin requesting Bid Credits for a qualified apprentice using the [Bid Credit Apprentice Report](#)



Learn more about the Bid Credit Program

Illinois Works Bid Credit Program

Illinois Works Graduate Request

Contractor Registration Form

Bid Credit Apprentice Report

Bid Credit Certificate Request



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