



August 2026 BCP Newsletter

Donetta Thomas - HIRE360 ILWPP Graduate Highlight

Donetta Thomas is the first female graduate from [HIRE360's Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program](#) (ILWPP) to become an apprentice with Roofers Local 11. Donetta had zero prior experience with the construction industry before deciding to enroll in HIRE 360's ILWPP to start a career in the trades. The ILWPP helped her to get construction career training, as well as test preparation as she worked towards entering an apprenticeship. She has now been accepted into Roofers Local 11 and is working as a first-year apprentice!



Donetta is a mother of three and hopes her journey inspires her sons to face challenges with confidence! She plans to one day become a Foreman before eventually owning her own business.

Donetta is now considered a Qualified Apprentice and is Bid Credit Eligible! All hours she works for her employer are eligible to be submitted to us to earn Bid Credits. If you are interested in finding a Qualified Apprentice that has graduated from an Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program, you can either submit a Job Order Request or Graduate List request below, and someone from Illinois Works Career Services will assist you.

[Job Order Request](#)[Graduate List Request](#)

DCEO - Illinois State Fair



The Bid Credit Program volunteered at the Illinois State Fair for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). We were in the Lt. Governor's tent Tuesday afternoon on August 18th. This was a great opportunity to connect with the community and promote Illinois Works as well as all of the other tremendous programs operated out of DCEO.



(Pictured above: Rosalia Boccardi and Kathryn MacDonna, Bid Credit Monitors)

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 Apprentice 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>

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

We are excited to continue our themed TA sessions into the month of September. See the schedule below for a session that looks beneficial for you to learn more!

Date	TA Session Title	TA Session Goal
August 27, 2026	What is an Apprentice Report?	Educate contractors on how to fill out the Apprentice Report which is how to request Bid Credits.
September 3, 2026	What is the Office of Illinois Works?	Educate contractors and other stakeholders about the Office of Illinois Works and its functions.
September 10, 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.
September 17, 2026	What is a Qualified Apprentice?	Connect contractors with a representative from Illinois Works Career Services to help locate a Qualified Apprentice.
September 24, 2026	What is an Apprentice Report?	Educate contractors on how to fill out the Apprentice 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!

We added the following mini tutorial videos to our Bid Credit Program (BCP) Partner Guide:



Video Tutorials & Training Materials

- 1. What is a Bid Credit (video below)
- 2. Navigating the BCP Website
- 3. How to get registered with the BCP
- 4. How to access your BCP Contractor's Dashboard
- 5. How to request Bid Credits

How much can I earn?

Bid Credit Formula:

Hours Qualified Apprentices Work

X

Mean Statewide Prevailing Wage Rate
(See breakdown for each trade to the right)

X

Bid Credit Earning Rate \$0.50

Click here to watch them all!

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
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(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

July - August 2026 New Contractor Shoutout!

- Eco Temp HVAC
- Diaz Construction and Development



Bid Credits Awarded During August 2026!

- Laverdiere Construction, Inc. \$3,355.70

You can view all BCP Registered Contractors' total Bid Credit bank balances on our [Bid Credit Registry](#) that is updated monthly.

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?
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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

[Du Quoin State Fair](#)
Veteran's Day Expo Event
Sunday, August 30, 2026
10 am - 2 pm

[Chicagoland Safety, Health & Environmental Conference \(CSHEC\)](#)
Wednesday, August 16, 2026
8 am - 4:30 pm

[Chicago Build 2026 Expo](#)
Government Hub
October 28 - 29, 2026
8 am - 5 pm

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 \(Request for Bid Credits\)](#)



Learn more about the Bid Credit Program

Illinois Works Graduate Request

Contractor Registration Form

Bid Credit Apprentice Report
(Request for Bid Credits)

Bid Credit Certificate Request



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