



January 2026 BCP Newsletter



**Happy New Year From the
Illinois Works Bid Credit
Program Team!**

**Need Help Navigating
the IL Works Bid Credit
Program?**

We're Here to Help!



Join our Technical Assistance 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 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!

HIRE360 – ILWPP Graduate Asante McKinney



After years in healthcare, Asante McKinney made the courageous decision to build a new future in the construction trades. While balancing overnight shifts and raising her young son, she completed the [Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#) through HIRE360. Today, she is a paid trainee with [IBEW Local 701](#) in DuPage County, taking the next step toward a stable career in the electrical trades and a brighter future for her family.

Asante shared her story at this year's [Tradeswomen Build Nations](#) Conference in front of 6,000 attendees, the largest gathering of tradeswomen in North America. HIRE360 was honored to stand alongside partners and graduates shaping the industry's future. The event also featured insights from Cattie Tenzillo, HIRE360's Manager of Training and Mentorship, who spoke about the power of mentorship in creating lasting opportunities for women to succeed in the trades.

Hear from Asante on NPR [here](#). Thank you to [Illinois AFL-CIO](#) and [The Chicago & Cook County Building & Construction Trades Council](#) for helping to share her story.

How Can You Earn 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 9/1/2025	Bid Credit Earnings for 1 Year (2,080 hours)	Bid Credit Earnings for 6 Years (12,480 hours)
Electric Power Lineman	\$64.24	\$66,809.60	\$400,857.60
Painter Over 30 Ft.	\$33.88	\$35,235.20	\$211,411.20

(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!](#)

HIRE360 – ILWPP Graduate Julian Diaz

South Side native Julian Diaz is forging his path in the trades as a new electrical apprentice. After connecting with HIRE360 at a high school trade fair, he completed the [Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship program](#) and stayed in touch with his coordinator, while waiting for the opportunity to join the union.

His patience paid off when Julian was accepted into the program and began his apprenticeship this fall with [IBEW Local 9](#). Along the way, he earned his CDL license and gained the preparation needed to succeed.



If you are looking to hire an ILWPP Graduate to help you start earning bid credits, you should get connected with our [Illinois Works Career Services](#) team. Their goal is to connect Contractors with ILWPP Graduates, which can in turn help you earn Bid Credits! You can email them at ceo.ilwcareerservices@Illinois.gov or click the Job Order Request or Graduate List Request below!

[Illinois Works Job Order Request](#)

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!

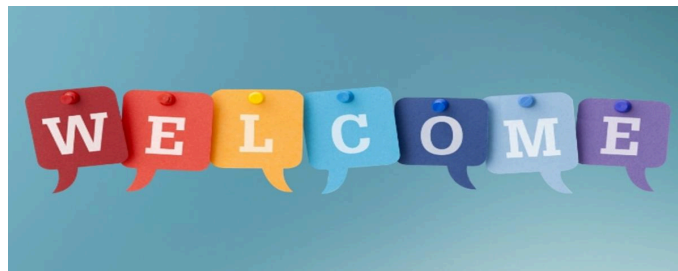
Do you have an ILWPP graduate/apprentice that you would like to recognize for their remarkable achievement or for overcoming a significant challenge?

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

[BCP Newsletter Highlight Form](#)

December 2025 New Contractor Shoutout!

- T N T Construction, Inc.



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?](#)

North America's Building Trades Unions Career Day

The North America's Building Trades Unions Career Day was Tuesday, November 18, at the Bank of Springfield (BoS) Center in Springfield, IL. Both the Bid Credit Program and the Career Services Teams were fortunate to be able to attend this open house event hosted by North America's Building Trades Unions. Career Day is intended to give students exposure to the construction trades as an alternative to the traditional college career path. Local high schools and trade schools were invited to attend the one-day event, but it was also open to the public. Anyone interested in the construction trades was welcome to attend the free event.



(Pictured above, left to right: Rosalia Boccardi, Bid Credit Program; Emily, Sheetmetal Workers Local 218)

[Read More](#)

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 pre-apprenticeship programs boost women and minorities in construction, study says](#)
- [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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