



July 2026 BCP Newsletter

Check out this article in People magazine about Chicago Women in Trade's (CWIT) Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship (ILWPP) Graduate Abbi Donovan's success in the trades!



[Click Here!](#)

Federation of Women Contractors Annual Awards Reception: Women Rock 2026



(Pictured above: Jaemie Neely, Executive Director received the FWC 2026 President's Award. Pictured left to right: Sara Knight, President; Colleen Kramer, Board of Directors; Kelly Gallagher, Board of Director; Jaemie Neely, Executive Director; Laura Pager, Treasurer; Cindy Gustafson, Immediate Past President; Christine Chung, Vice President.)

The Bid Credit Program attended the Federation of Women Contractors (FWC) annual awards reception at the Offshore Rooftop, Navy Pier Chicago on June 10, 2026. Since 1989, the FWC has been a leading advocate for women executives and women-owned business in the construction industry. Illinois Works (ILW) is excited to partner along with this initiative as women are one of the most underrepresented populations in the construction and build trades.

The ILW Bid Credit Program is hosting a Lunch & Learn webinar [Boosting Competitiveness: A Contractor's Guide to IL Works & the Bid Credit Program](#) for FWC Members July 29. Members can register directly through the FWC website. If you are interested in having the Bid Credit Program host an educational session with your organization, please let us know!



(Pictured above: Wiletta Turner, Turner Construction and Rosalia Boccardi, Bid Credit Program.)

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>

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 August. See the schedule below for a session that looks beneficial for you to learn more!

Date	TA Session Title	TA Session Goal
July 30, 2026	What is an Apprentice Report?	Educate contractors on how to fill out the Apprentice Report which is how to request Bid Credits.
August 6, 2026	What is the Office of Illinois Works?	Educate contractors and other stakeholders about the Office of Illinois Works and its functions.
August 13, 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.
August 20, 2026	What is a Qualified Apprentice?	Connect contractors with a representative from Illinois Works Career Services to help locate a Qualified Apprentice.
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.

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](#)

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 August 20, 2026 from 10 am to 12 pm. Here is a direct link to the registration:

Register Here!

You can also visit the Apprenticeship Initiative's website to learn more about the Compliance requirements for State projects \$500K+:

<https://dceo.illinois.gov/illinoisworks/apprenticeship.html>

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

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



Video Tutorials & Training Materials

How much can I earn?

Bid Credit Formula:

$$\text{Hours Qualified Apprentice Work} \times \text{Mean Statewide Prevailing Wage Rate (See breakdown for each trade to the right)} \times \text{Bid Credit Earning Rate } \$0.50$$

Trade Title	Mean Wage	Trade Title	Mean Wage
SEAMSTER/SEW	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER	\$18.20
WELDER/WELDER	\$20.08	PAINTING/PAINTER II	\$18.20
BRICK/MASON	\$41.00	PAINTING/PAINTER III	\$18.20
CARPENTER	\$42.00	PAINTING/PAINTER IV	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER V	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER VI	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER VII	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER VIII	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER IX	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER X	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER XI	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER XII	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER XIII	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER XIV	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER XV	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER XVI	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER XVII	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER XVIII	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER XIX	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER XX	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER XXI	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER XXII	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER XXIII	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER XXIV	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER XXV	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER XXVI	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER XXVII	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER XXVIII	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER XXIX	\$18.20
CONCRETE/CONCRETE	\$18.24	PAINTING/PAINTER XXX	\$18.20

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

(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!

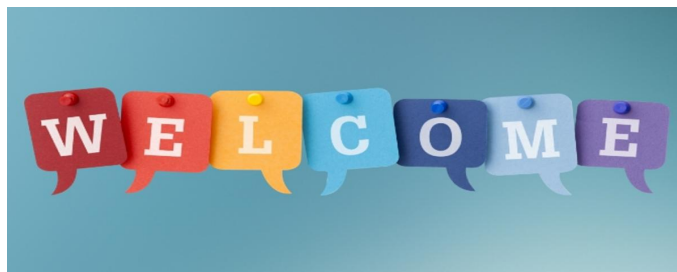
Do you have an ILWPP graduate/apprentice that you would like to recognize for their remarkable achievement or for overcoming a significant challenge?

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

[BCP Newsletter Highlight Form](#)

June 2026 New Contractor Shoutout!

- RoadSafe Traffic Systems, Inc.



Bid Credits Awarded During July 2026!

- Laverdiere Construction, Inc. \$1,667.30

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?

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

[Illinois State Fair](#)

Lt. Governor's Tent
August 18, 2026
10 am - 2 pm

[Du Quoin State Fair](#)

Veteran's Day Expo Event
Sunday, August 30, 2026
10 am - 2 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](#)



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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