



June 2026 BCP Newsletter

Neffer Kerr - Rincon Family Services ILWPP Graduate Highlight

Neffer Kerr is an exemplary graduate from [Rincon Family Service's Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#) (ILWPP), whose resilience, academic excellence, and commitment to the community have guided her in making remarkable strides in her transition into the trades. After pivoting from a career in grant management, Neffer entered the Carpentry and Construction field in the pursuit of financial stability and long-term career growth. She earned her Carpentry and Construction Certificate from Dawson Technical Institute (Kennedy-King College), and completed the ILWPP program while simultaneously committing 35 hours a week to her trade program. Last fall she was awarded the Blesson's Scholarship for Women and this spring received the CSBG scholarship from the City of Chicago in recognition of her dedication.



Neffer was accepted into the Mid-America Carpenter's Regional Council Apprentice & Training Program in January of 2026. She is currently completing her AAS in Construction Management. Neffer's story is unique in that she accomplished these things despite experiencing great adversity while pursuing her goals, overcoming depression, unemployment, financial and housing insecurity all while keeping a positive attitude and working to change the trajectory of her life. Her background in advocacy and community engagement, combined with her technical training and acceptance into the carpenters' apprenticeship program, positions her to make a lasting impact in local workforce development and equitable construction initiatives.

Neffer is now 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

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](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 July. We will **not** be having a session July 2, 2026 due to the Holiday weekend. See the schedule below for a session that looks beneficial for you to learn more!

Date	TA Session Title	TA Session Goal
July 9, 2026	What is the Office of Illinois Works?	Educate contractors and other stakeholders about the Office of Illinois Works and its functions.
July 16, 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.
July 23, 2026	What is a Qualified Apprentice?	Connect contractors with a representative

		from Illinois Works Career Services to help locate a Qualified Apprentice.
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.

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 July 16, 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>

Daniel Diaz – Lewis University ILWPP Graduate Highlight

Daniel Diaz's interest in construction was sparked by family influence and a desire to build and create, leading him to pursue hands-on learning and union training after discovering [Lewis University's Illinois Works Pre Apprenticeship Program](#) (ILWPP) in Joliet through social media. He found an Instagram AD highlighting career opportunities and bonuses, which motivated him to enroll to secure a better future.

Daniel appreciated the program's diverse opportunities, the in-depth instruction, and the hands-on training, including tool usage and pipe layout skills. A significant moment for him was visiting the Carpenter's union training center union and seeing the millwright department, which influenced his



decision to pursue this trade for his career. He graduated from the ILWPP on October 9, 2025 with his NCCER, OSHA 10, CPR/First Aid, and Flagger credentials.

Daniel is now currently a first-year Millworker with Millwright Local 1693 in Chicago and is enjoying his training and work experience. His company provides adequate support, and he is enthusiastic about his ongoing projects and learning. Daniel is Bid Credit eligible and can earn his employer Bid Credits for all hours he works, private or public.

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](#)

May 2026 New Contractor Shoutout!

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Crisof Cleaning Services LLC | • ERU Electric |
| • Timebuilt Solutions LLC | • Premier Comfort Heating and Air Conditioning Inc. |
| • R.A. Cullinan and Son a division of United Contractors Midwest, Inc. | |



Bid Credits Awarded During June 2026!

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| • Henson Robinson Company | \$1,339.80 |
| • Laverdiere Construction, Inc. | \$4,083.83 |

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!

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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