



March 2026 BCP Newsletter

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 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!

Quad Cities Builders & Remodelers Association 2026 Home Show



The Bid Credit Program Team attended the 2026 Home Show at the Bend Expo Center in East Moline on Saturday, February 14. In an effort to reach stakeholders as far as the State border. We were excited to have the opportunity to meet the locals, residents and businesses from the Quad-Cities area while educating them on the benefits of Illinois Works and the Bid Credit Program. Earning bid credits is a way for contractors to get that competitive edge when bidding on State-funded capital projects!

Learn more about earning Bid
Credits Here!

(Pictured above: Rosalia Boccardi, Bid
Credit Monitor)

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 March 25, 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

Let's Give a Shout Out to BCP Contractor, D. Construction, Inc., for new hire Melissa Tremaine!

Melissa Tremaine, who was a recent graduate (August 2025) of the Chicago Women in Trades (CWIT) ILW Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program (ILWPP), has been hired by D. Construction, Inc.! She is now in the Laborers Union and will be working on the IDOT I-80 Corridor Improvement Project. In less than a year from her pre-apprenticeship graduation, Melissa will already be earning D. Construction, Inc., bid credits that can be used to help win future State capital-funded projects!



(Pictured above: Melissa Tremaine during her ILWPP Construction Training with CWIT)

As a laborer, earning the [BCP calculated Mean Prevailing Wage Rate](#) of \$36.68, she has the potential to earn an estimated \$40K in bid credits a year, with the potential bid credit earnings of \$200K while working toward journeyman status! Because Melissa is a graduate of the ILWPP, D. Construction can now meet the [Apprenticeship Initiative](#) compliance requirements of the ILW Jobs Program Act if they choose to put her to work on a project that is required to comply!

Read her full story written by CWIT Case Manager, Sandra Brudent, [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!](#)

Women in Construction



The Quad City Builders & Remodelers Association (QCBR) also launched their own National Association Home Builders (NAHB) Professional Women in Building Council (PWB) Quad-Cities in late 2024. As a leader in the community, the QCBR supports local women in various roles in the construction industry trades (builders, designers, realtors, brokers, lenders, developers).

Illinois Works (ILW) is committed to serving women who are among one of the underrepresented populations in the construction trades. One of IL Works Pre-apprenticeship training partners, [Chicago Women in Trades](#), is a leader in providing women the tools and support to navigate the challenges of entering into the construction trades industry.

[Click here to learn more about one of our IL Works Construction Pre-apprenticeship Training Programs!](#)

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!

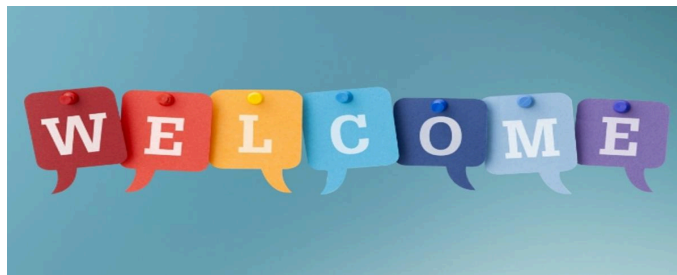
Do you have an ILWPP graduate/apprentice that you would like to recognize for their remarkable achievement or for overcoming a significant challenge?

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

March 2026 New Contractor Shoutout!

- House Support

- Kreiling Roofing Co



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 Department of Transportation's 35th Annual [Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Reward Conference](#)

April 1 - 2, 2026
8 am - 5 pm
Springfield, IL

Underground Contractors' Association (UCA) [Spring Showcase](#)

April 7, 2026
8 am - 5 pm
Addison, IL

Quad Cities Builders & Remodelers Association (QCBR) [Build My Future](#)

April 21, 2026
8 am - 5 pm
Rock Island, IL

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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