



## November 2025 BCP Newsletter

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### Thank You Veterans!

The IL Works Team would like to give a special shout out this November to all the AWESOME Americans who serve, or have served, in our US Military! In honor and recognition of Veteran's Day, we would like to thank ALL Veterans for their commitment to and sacrifice for our country. America is absolutely the home of the FREE because of all these BRAVE men and women!



We would also like to give special recognition to [HELMETS TO HARDHATS](#), whose mission is to connect transitioning active-duty military service members to skilled training and opportunities in the construction industry. As one of the underrepresented populations facing barriers in the workforce, the Office of IL Works prioritizes our American Veterans in its programs.

At this year's IL Works Pre-apprenticeship Annual Conference for our grantee providers, we were honored to highlight veterans with a special presentation by Mr. Bill Mulcrone, Midwest Regional Manager of Helmets to Hardhats. Mr. Mulcrone gave an inspiring and informative presentation on how to recruit and retain veterans: "Transitioning Military to Civilian Careers." To learn more about Helmets to Hard Hats and their mission, visit their [website](#).

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### 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 Apprentice 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>

## 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!](#)

## Chicago Build Expo 2025



Pictured above, left to right: Rebekah Piatt, Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Technology (EIT); Hans Erickson, Career Services (CS); Kathryn MacDonna, Bid Credit Program (BCP); and Rosalia Boccardi, Bid Credit Program (BCP).

Where you there? We were! The Bid Credit Program (BCP) showed up at the ChicagoBuild Expo this year representing the DCEO vendor booth in the Government Hub. This two-day event, held annually at McCormick Place Chicago, attracts over 30k+ attendees, 350+ exhibitors, and 400+ speakers throughout 13 specialized conference tracks. As Illinois' largest construction expo, we were excited to make this our third year in attendance!

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## 3rd Annual 2025 Construction Summit



Picture above, left to right: Rosalia Boccardi, Bid Credit Program and Susette Crenshaw, ABCIL Workforce Development Director

Picture to the left, left to right: Victor Castillo, Career Services and Rosalia Boccardi, Bid Credit Program

The Bid Credit Program partnered with IL Works Career Services as a vendor at the 3rd Annual [2025 Construction Summit](#) co-hosted by Associated Builders & Contractors-Illinois (ABCIL) and Lumber in Itasca, IL. Celebrating their 50th anniversary this year as the nation's largest non-union trade association, ABCIL brings together more than 300+ members in Illinois alone.

ABCIL is also one of our [ILW Pre-Apprenticeship Program Providers](#). If you are a contractor looking for a [Qualified Apprentice](#) to hire into a DOL-RAP, you can check out our list of [training providers and heat map](#) in your area, or contact [Career Services](#) for individualized assistance

Read More

## Newsletter Highlight & ILWPP Graduate Success Stories

We love graduate success stories! We also would love a chance to feature your company 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

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## October 2025 New Contractors Shoutout!

- Sunset Heating and Air-Conditioning
- IRC
- Certified Property Solutions Inc
- Warner Contracting LLC
- Lincoln Milling & Paving
- Ridge Plumbing Contractor LLC
- M.E. Mechanical Inc.
- D N D Electric, Inc.



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## Bid Credit Launch Q&A

Click on each box for the answer!

How Much Can I Earn?

Is My Apprenticeship Bid Credit Eligible?

Bid Credit Submission Tips?



## What Do I Need to Know About the [Bid Credit Apprenticeship Report](#)?

When completing a BC Apprenticeship Report, there are some important things you should know. Your Qualified Apprenticeship was assigned an **IWRS Number** during their IL Works Pre-apprenticeship Program training. You will need to provide this number when submitting the online BC Apprenticeship Report form. If your employee does not know their IWRS Number, they should contact their ILW Pre-apprenticeship Program for assistance.

You must also provide the **Project Location** and **Project County** where your employee worked (as indicated on the Certified Payroll) to determine the Region in which bid credits were earned. This is applicable for any Bid Credit Certificates applied to a project bid up through June 30, 2027. [“Prior to July 1, 2027, the bid credit certificate will only include credits earned in the project’s region.”](#)



- Bid Credit Apprenticeship Reports:
  - must be requested within 90 calendar days of the first day worked on the Certified Payroll
  - can include up to 5 weeks of Certified Payroll per submission for same employee in same county

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## Illinois Works In the News

- [Illinois pre-apprenticeship programs boos tradesworker diversity](#)

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

- [Belt Announces Grant Funding For Pre-apprenticeship Programming](#)

- [HIRE360 To Celebrate First Graduating Class Of Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program In Will County](#)



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## 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](mailto:CEO.BidCreditProgram@illinois.gov).

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## 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!

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## 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](#)



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## 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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