



## October 2025 BCP Newsletter

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Congratulations to **Otto Baum Company, Inc** for being the first contractor awarded Bid Credits!

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### 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!](#)

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### Technical Assistance

**Technical Assistance** will be available via Webex **every Thursday morning from 10 am to 11 am**. A member of the Bid Credit Team will be available to offer personalized technical assistance. There is no need to register. Just use this [link](#) to access the Technical Assistance meeting offered each Thursday.

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# Connect with Career Services to Find a Bid Credit Eligible Apprentice

If you are a contractor looking for qualified talent for your company, **Illinois Works is here to support you.** The [Illinois Works Career Services](#) team is available to quickly connect you with Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program graduates located throughout the State of Illinois. All Illinois Works graduates have been thoroughly vetted and are ready and able to make a career in construction and the trades. They have all earned nationally-recognized construction certifications, including NCCER, MC3, or ICCB, OSHA-10, and First Aid/CPR.



Simply complete the [Illinois Works Job Order Request](#) online to submit job orders to the Career Services team. This immediately triggers a job matching process that produces a list of graduates that meet the criteria you specify. The list provided to you includes the graduates' contact information, updated resumes, construction trade interest and experience, availability and earned certifications. From this list you can identify and directly contact graduates who are available for employment and sponsorship into a Department of Labor (DOL) Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs).

You can also submit a [Graduate List Request](#) if you are interested in obtaining a customized list of Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship graduates based on location (county, distance from a job site) or trade interests, among others.

All Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program graduates are trained, ready, willing, and able to begin working on your job site today! These graduates also carry with them compliance credits for the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative and are eligible to earn large amounts of bid credits through the Bid Credit Program for contractors or subcontractors that hire them.

If you need additional information about Career Services or are interested in getting connected with an Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program graduate, you can email Victor Castillo at [Victor.Castillo2@illinois.gov](mailto:Victor.Castillo2@illinois.gov) or [CEO.ILWCareerServices@illinois.gov](mailto:CEO.ILWCareerServices@illinois.gov).

## Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program Annual Grantee Conference



The 2025 ILW Pre-apprenticeship Program (ILWPP) Grantee Annual Conference was just held October 15 & 16 at the NIU Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center in DeKalb, IL. This marks the fourth year the Illinois Works Team hosted the conference, with 32 grantee organizations and 90 participants in attendance.

The annual conference focuses on continued education and professional development for ILWPP Grantees to achieve successful programmatic outcomes. What does that mean for you as a contractor? It means IL Works continues to equip ILWPP Grantees with essential tools to provide you the best ILWPP Graduates to hire as apprentices. And, that means giving you a bidding advantage on capital-funded construction projects when you apply bid credits (virtual dollars) you earn for hiring these apprentices. Learn more about hiring *Qualified Apprentices* and start earning bid credits [here!](#)

Are you already a Registered Bid Credit Program Contractor looking to hire your next *Qualified Apprentice* who graduated from an ILW Pre-apprenticeship Program and start earning bid credits?? Just complete the [Illinois Works Job Order Request](#) for a full list of ILWPP Grantees available through our [Career Services Team](#).

[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!

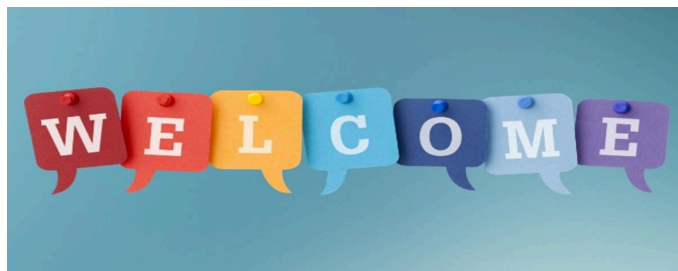
Do you have an ILWPP graduate/apprentice that you would like to recognize for their remarkable achievement or for overcoming a significant challenge?

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

[BCP Newsletter Highlight Form](#)

## September 2025 New Contractor Shoutout!

- AR Martin Construction LLC
- Williams Brothers Construction LLC
- Kelley Ironworks
- Plote Construction Inc.



## Bid Credit Launch Q&A

Click on each box for the answer!

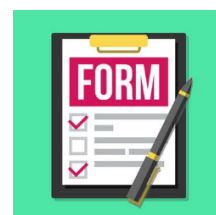
[How Much Can I Earn?](#)

[Is My Apprentice Bid Credit Eligible?](#)

[Bid Credit Submission Tips?](#)

## Bid Credit Apprentice Report Checklist

Use this check list to compile all your information before [Apprentice Form](#) entry. You will not be able to save the form



and complete at a later time. However, the form will remain open until you close the web browser.

**Contractor Info:**

- BCP Account Number (e.g., BCP-123456)
- Registered Name (used to register)
- FEIN

**Apprentice Info:**

- Name (full, legal)
- Last 4 SSN
- IL Works 6-Digit Graduate ID (IWRS #) (e.g., 123456)
- USDOL-RAP Acceptance Letter (file to upload) - **FIRST SUBMISSION ONLY**
- USDOL-RAP Promotion Letter (file to upload) - **FIRST SUBMISSION AFTER EACH PROMOTION**
- Apprenticeship Program Name & Type (Union/Private)
- Trade Title

**Project Location Info:**

- Address (City and Zip Code)
- County

**Payroll Info:**

- Certified Payroll (file to upload) – **MUST BE SIGNED**
- Work Performed no more than 90 Calendar Days prior to submission
- 5 Weeks Maximum per submission
- Payroll Date (earliest payroll)
- Payroll Period Start Date (earliest payroll)
- Payroll Period End Date (latest payroll)
- Total Hours Payroll Each Week (Regular, Over Time, Double Time)

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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

[Chicago Build](#) at McCormick Place  
- Chicago, IL

ABC's [3rd Annual Construction Summit](#)

October 28 - 29, 2025  
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

November 6, 2025  
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

If you are attending either of these, please introduce yourself to us, we would love to meet you!

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## Upcoming Bid Credit Program Webinars

Advantages of the Bid Credit  
Program Webinar

Effectively Earning Bid Credits  
Webinar

This **UPDATED** informational webinar will provide updates from the administrative rules that have been approved.

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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