



ILLINOIS WORKS Bid Credit Program

September 2025 BCP Newsletter



The ILW [Bid Credit Program](#) is LIVE!

How Much Could You Earn in 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!](#)

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.

Metropolitan Family Services empower families to learn, to earn, to heal, to thrive. Part mentor, part motivator, part advocate. Since 1857, Metropolitan Family Services has been the engine of change that empowers Chicago-area families to reach their greatest potential and positively impact their communities.

MFS IL Works Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program is an 11-week program that introduces basic construction skills to individuals with an interest in construction. MFS Bridge to Construction Programs main focuses are to prepare its trainees to enter a DOL-registered apprenticeship, through both lecture and practical training. After successful completion of the program, trainees would have earned 3 industry recognized credentials - NCCER: Core, OSHA 10, and First Aid & CPR in addition to 20+ hours of Job Readiness Training.

MFS Bridge to Construction Program has completed three years of service to our community. To date the program has successfully placed several program participants in the following Trade Unions: Carpenters, Brick Layers, Electrical, Riggers, Plumbers and Metal Polishers.

Metropolitan Family Services ILWPP Graduate Highlight - Lavictoria Berkhalter

While working in the medical field for several years, LaVictoria desired a career with better growth potential and financial stability. She heard about the great opportunities the construction trades offer and decided to pursue a career in plumbing.



(Pictured above:(Left) LaVictoria Berkhalter – April 5, 2024, graduation day; (Right) LaVictoria Berkhalter - working on a Bridge-to-Construction Pre-apprenticeship Training class project.)

LaVictoria enrolled in the Bridge-to-Construction, the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Training Program ran by Metropolitan Family Services, in 2024. This 11-week program prepared her to enter the plumbing DOL-registered apprenticeship, through both lecture and practical training. She successfully completed this program, earning 3 industry recognized

credentials: NCCER: Core, OSHA 10, and First Aid & CPR in addition to 20+ hours of Job Readiness Training.

[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](#)

August 2025 New Contractor Shoutout!

- River Vally Construction, Inc.
- Imperial Surveillance



Bid Credit Launch Q&A

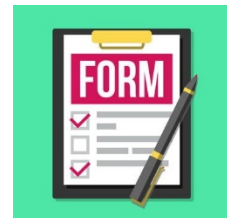
Click on each box for the answer!

[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)

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](#)



Upcoming Bid Credit Program Events

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

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

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

October 28 - 29, 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!

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!

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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