
SUBJECT: LAKE COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT US DOL DISLOCATED WORKER GRANT – SUPPORTIVE SERVICES & TRAINING
GRANT PERIOD: JUNE 1, 2021 – DECEMBER 31, 2022
FUNDING: \$325,000

Summary: The US Department of Labor has reported staggering statistics throughout the past year on the number of women who have had to leave the labor force and are not working because they have to take care of their children at home. According to USDOL, women looking after young children at home are the only group to have seen their labor force participation rate decline due to COVID-19 and the stay-at-home orders. The pandemic shutdowns caused the number of women with young children in Illinois' workforce to fall by 6.3%.

Workforce Development has formed an initiative designed to empower women to achieve economic security – return to the labor force – and find quality, reliable child-care options in order to get a job, retain the job and advance in the job while feeling secure that their children are properly being cared for. Workforce Development will hire a project navigator to lead out the [Family Center Coaching](#) strategies that will provide the framework to streamline access to childcare services and resources for women returning to the labor force.

Workforce Development will recruit dislocated workers from the following WARN events. The dislocated workers enrolled in this project will be 100% women of color who have been the primary child-care giver during the past year and unable to reenter the workforce on a career path. Workforce Development will provide career services to the dislocated workers as well as connect the participants to the services and activities of the Job Center. In addition to working with the project navigator to receive planning and financial assistance with childcare, transportation and connectivity; dislocated workers will enroll in occupational training through an ITA.