



Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Career Planner Training Academy supporting Illinois Workforce Development System (IWDS) 2.0 in the amount of \$119,123.05

**Grant Details:**

- **Funding Source:** Illinois DCEO Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grant Funds (WIOA)
- **Grant Period:** October 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027
- **Grant Amount:** \$119,123.05

**Background:**

The Illinois workforce case management, performance and reporting system is changing. The changes will drive putting customers first, rather than focusing solely on results and compliance. Career planners will go beyond just checking eligibility and completing services; they will work with customers to set goals, build relationships, and connect services leading to finding meaningful jobs. To implement and launch the new IWDS 2.0 system, A Train-the-Trainer model is being implemented and funded.

Workforce Development has a team member with qualifications and experience to be the lead trainer for career planners in the region including Lake, McHenry and DuPage Counties. The trainer will assist with rolling out the system, training, and implementation which includes understanding how the system supports WIOA policy and strong service relationships.

**Phase 1: Preparation and Orientation (November 2025 – Ongoing)**

Trainers will carry out the necessary activities to help identify system requirements and become subject-matter experts in using IWDS 2.0. GOAL: Trainers attend 90% of all meetings and activities and 100% of the train-the-trainer activities and development.

**Phase 2: Training Plan (March- May 2026)**

Trainers will continue all relevant activities from the earlier phase, in addition to developing a regional training plan, manage all planning and logistical tasks for training sessions.

**Phase 3: Train the Trainer (April 2026- June 2026)**

Trainers will continue all relevant activities from earlier phases, participate in the IWDS 2.0 final technical training, train the trainer bootcamp, participate in a statewide conference to kick-off training.

**Phase 4: Career Planner Training (June 2026 -December 2026)**

Trainers will continue all relevant activities from earlier phases, deliver and facilitate regional training, support career planners with online training, host regular virtual office hours. GOAL: 90% of all career planners in the region receive training by August 31, 2026.

**Phase 5: IWDS GO LIVE & BEYOND (JULY 1, 2026)**

Trainers will continue all relevant activities from earlier phases, facilitate career planner follow-up trainings as well as IWDS 2.0 implementation evaluation and analysis. GOAL: Trainers achieve an average satisfaction rating of at least 80%.