



DCEO PROGRAM YEAR 2022 APPRENTICESHIP ILLINOIS EXPANSION GRANT

GRANT PERIOD: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

PARTICIPANTS: 10 INCUMBENT WORKERS + 10 OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

GRANT AWARD: \$100,000

STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE SUPPORTED: [Increasing industry-led workforce solutions](#)

The State of Illinois Workforce Innovation Board (IWIB) has developed the Apprenticeship Illinois framework that focuses on expanding apprenticeships and work-based learning/training opportunities. To sustain and expand the Illinois Apprenticeship Network, the State is focusing resources on coordinating the Apprenticeship Navigator roles and responsibilities within the local integrated business service teams, including representatives from the WIOA core partners and other local workforce, education, and economic development partners. Illinois has received the first year of funding of a five-year grant from the US Department of Labor.

Workforce Development received the first round of grant funding to pay personnel costs of a Workforce Development Project Lead – Apprenticeship Navigator position and develop an employer incentive strategy when engaged with work-based learning models. The work and responsibilities of the position will be embedded in the Lake County Workforce Ecosystem and will strengthen the development and implementation of workforce solutions with key industries including advance manufacturing, the health-care industry, education, transportation, hospitality, and professional services. This approach will facilitate effective outreach, foster collaboration among stakeholders, provide direct assistance to employers and apprentices, enhance staff capacity, and work towards continuous improvement to meet the hiring, retention and advance of the local workforce and support economic growth.

The project is being launched with a focus on increasing services to youth and young adults. Workforce Development is focusing on increasing Registered Apprenticeship Programs through the Youth Development Practitioner Apprenticeship (YDPA), a DOL Registered Apprenticeship Program sponsored by the National Institute for Work & Learning, fhi360. The goal is to engage with 10 youth serving organizations to train incumbents and then recruit one youth from each organization (up to 10 opportunity youth) to enroll in the apprenticeship program to apply their lived experience to the service and the community.

This grant will be used to fund a new position, Project Lead – Apprenticeship Navigator, that will be eliminated if or when this grant's funding is no longer available and no other funding source outside of property tax dollars has been identified.