



South Suburban Cook County American Job Center at Prairie State College

Monthly Partner Meeting
August 19th, 2021
10:00 am

Meeting Attendees:

Angela Young, Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS); Audrea Wilder, Prairie State College; Craig Schmidt, Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC); Emily Orenstein, the Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC); Georges Sanon, Prairie State College; Jacqueline Owens, National Able Network SCSEP; Jude Laude, Youth Job Center; Leticia Johnson, Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES); Lohnjonice Allen, CEDA; Loretta Coleman, Veterans Forward at National Able Network; Matt Weis, National Able Network; Pilar Trejo, the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership; Rocío Montoya, National Able Network; Roselyn McGhee, IDES; Tina Salgado, IDES; Valencia Funches, IDHS; Vicky Garcia, Prairie State College; Megan McGinty, Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition (CCLC); Nidia Mejia, CCLC.

Agenda:

- OSO Project Overview
- Calendar of Events Discussion
- Trending Topics
- Partner Updates

CCLC Update:

- Nidia provided an OSO Project update. She discussed the Monthly Partner Meetings, AJC Orientation, Customer Satisfaction, and Cross-training status, and their respective goals. Calendar of Events, Dashboard, Special Projects, Referrals, and Job Seeker Recruitment are among the OSO's round two and three projects.
- Nidia further explained the OSO plans on tackling the Calendar of Events. The goal is for the OSO team to manage a system-wide calendar for all partners at the AJC. This will also help with job seeker recruitment and track outcomes and success.
- Nidia invited partners to share who oversees each Partner organization's Calendar of Events. Staff who manage the Calendar of Events will receive a Google form to offer information about each agency's current process.
- The OSO will share resources in the areas of policy and advocacy, technology platforms and tools, and professional development in the coming months. Partners are encouraged to join the [Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition](#) for Adult Education and Family Literacy Week from September 20th to September 24th.

Partner Updates:

South Suburban Cook County American Job Center at Prairie State College Building Update

- National Able is still providing services by appointment only.
- They are offering CASAS testing onsite, please reach out to Rocío Montoya for more information at rmontoya@nationalable.org.

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA Title I-B)

National Able Network

- WIOA Orientations are held virtually and customers are seen by appointment only.
- Program Managers will attend the future Monthly Partner meetings to ensure that information and resources are shared across departments. status

The Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership (CCWP)

- HIRE Chicago 5-week hybrid event, aimed at preparing residents and employers for the post-pandemic, new economy presented by the City of Chicago, The Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, and World Business Chicago. The theme of the event is See Who You Can Be. Employers and job seekers from the City and Suburban Cook are encouraged to participate. [Click here to learn more about HIRE Chicago and register for events.](#)

Trade Adjustment Act (TAA)

National Able Network

- Angela Lopez is no longer with National Able Network. Our new point of contact for TAA is Daniela Cueva and you can refer individuals to Daniela at dcueva@nationalable.org.
- National Able Network provided an updated employer list. Individuals may be eligible for additional benefits through TAA if they have been affected by these layoffs: AT&T Services, Inc.; HERE North America, LLC; A Finkl and Sons; Allstate Insurance Company; Encompass Group, LLC; Capgemini American, Inc.; Follett Corporation; Mercury Plastics, Inc.; Pactiv LLC; Korn Ferry; Solo Cup Operating Corp; Mercury Plastics Inc; Castwell Products; ATI Holdings; and Alight Solutions LLC.

Youth Job Center

- WIOA Youth funding was awarded to the Youth Job Center.
- Youth Job Center was founded in Evanston and then intentionally expanded to Chicagoland. They are building relationships with high schools across Chicago and Cook County to transition young people into programs to launch their careers.
- Youth Job Center works with youth as young as 14 years old, up to 25 years old.
- Jude Laude, jlaude@youthjobcenter.org, is the new Director of Programs. Reach out to Jude to connect.

Prairie State College

- Classes start next week. As of now, they may be ahead of their pace compared to students registered by this time last year.
- The Military Student Affairs Center is hosting an Online College Success Workshop for Veterans in Community College on August 28th from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Any reserve, guard status, veterans thinking about college, or have not yet enrolled in college can attend. The workshop will cover skills needed to succeed, taught by veterans who started as community college students. [Click here to register.](#)
- Adult Education classes start on August 31st. Late start classes will start on October 4th. Prairie State College will have a CNA ICAPs course this semester.

- Audrea Wilder is the new WIOA Navigator, dedicated to enrolling students into WIOA programs. Connect with Audrea at awilder2@prairiestate.edu.

South Suburban College

- ESL and GED Registration is online.
 - [Click here to schedule an appointment to register for ESL.](#)
 - [Click here to schedule an appointment to register for GED.](#)
- They are recruiting for ICAPs, which is an opportunity for GED students to enroll in college credit courses.
- Raylynn Stokes is the new Manager of Adult Education, she can be reached at rstokes@ssc.edu.
- Additional questions can be directed to Christopher McElroy at CMcElroy@ssc.edu.

Moraine Valley Community College

- Fall semester classes begin on September 20th and registration is open. Prospective students can call 708-974-5340 to set up an appointment.
- Reach out to Meg Dawczak at dawczakm@morainevalley.edu with any questions.

Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)

- Many federal benefits programs that were extended this year are coming to an end on September 4th. A lot of claimants are calling about back-paying unemployment. [Click here to learn more about Benefit Year Ending.](#)
- Re-employment clients are contacted by phone. IDES staff reaches out multiple times to assist job seekers with barriers to employment.
- IDES is referring out to partner agencies and is looking for feedback on these referrals. They want to close the feedback loop on the people that IDES refers out.

Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)

- Summer Pandemic EBT was distributed last month for customers that are eligible for free or reduced lunch.
- Beginning in September, each household's SNAP allotment will be increased by \$36.
- A town hall meeting will be held by IDHS and DFSS to discuss child support issues. More details will be available soon.
- SNAP customers are exempt from employment and training requirements until July 2022.
- The WIOA Professional Development Committee is charged with coordinating regional statewide professional development for the WIOA system. For a list of upcoming events, click [here](#).

Vocational Rehabilitation

IDHS Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)

- The DRS Chicago Heights office remains closed to the public.
- DRS continues to take referrals online. [Click here to learn more and use the Online Web Referral.](#) Individuals can also call 708-709-3333 to begin.
- Angela Young, angela.s.young@illinois.gov, suggested web referrals rather than over the phone because it's often faster.

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

National Able Network SCSEP

- National Employ Older Workers Week will be celebrated in September. National Able will have a social media campaign this year.

- They are in the process of enrolling participants in their new Senior Employment Program.
- Contact Jackie Owens at jowens@nationalable.org to connect or with questions.

National Able Network Veterans Forward

- Veterans Forward provides paid work experience to people who live in the 606 zip code. Call 312.994.8308 for additional information.
- Orientation is offered every Wednesday from 10:00 am - 11:00 am. Enrollment is ongoing and they are accepting referrals. Most participants can be co-enrolled. In-person orientation is now hosted at the Near West AJC in Pilsen while virtual orientation continues.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

The Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC)

- The HACC finished their back-to-school events, where staff passed out materials from our AJC partner organizations in the area. Prairie State College was in attendance.
- The HACC has been administering rental assistance and Emily anticipates another round of rental assistance in late September.
- Reach out to Emily Orenstein at eorenstein@thehacc.org with any questions.

Job Corps

- The Joliet Job Corps Center is awaiting approval for virtual enrollment. Once approved, students will complete 8 weeks of virtual introductory courses. They will then move onto campus and quarantine before beginning in-person instruction.
- Job Corps has recent graduates and former students who are looking for apprenticeships. Please send any apprenticeship opportunities to Roger Fisher at fisher.roger@jobcorps.org.

Legal Aid Chicago

- Legal Aid Chicago can help students in school discipline cases, along with free record clearing for juveniles. You can direct participants to the [Legal Aid Chicago website](#) or have them call (213) 229-6067. If an individual wants to call Legal Aid Chicago specifically about their record, they can call (312) 229-6072.
- Legal Aid Chicago also has their Fair Housing program and their Senior program with DFSS.
- We received a new Foreclosure Timeline and it will be shared in the Resources Newsletter. The Legal Aid Chicago consumers team of attorneys will help anyone struggling with foreclosure. If you know someone who is about to lose their subsidized housing because of fraud, please refer them to Legal Aid Chicago.
- LIHEAP will open in September for Furnace and Utilities assistance.
- Reach out to Regina Rizzo at rizzo@legalaidchicago.org if you have any questions about these services or resources.
- Near West AJC in Pilsen offers direct referrals to Legal Aid Chicago.

Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC)

- Through an H-1B One Workforce Program funded by the US Department of Labor (USDOL), CAIC partners with employers and community colleges to fund, develop, and provide opportunities for individuals to enter an advanced manufacturing career.

- Two partners at this AJC, Prairie State College and South Suburban College, partner with CAIC.
- [Find out more about CAIC's H-1B One Workforce Program here.](#)
- CAIC is trying to recruit individuals through this One Workforce Program and enroll 1100 individuals trained in a manufacturing program in the next 4 years. For this semester, their goal is to register 175 students.
- CAIC funding can support IETs/ICAPs tuition. Reach out to Craig Schmidt with any questions at craig@calumetareaindustrial.com.
- CAIC also has plenty of job openings with their employer partners, ranging from entry-level to highly skilled.

Next Steps:

- After this meeting, attendees will complete the 30-second feedback survey. Those who receive the Calendar of Events questionnaire ought to complete the Google Form by September 2nd. If any supervisors received the Frontline Staff Contact Information Spreadsheet and have not yet returned it, they should return the spreadsheet to OSO this week.
- Updated flyers can be submitted to the OSO email address at oso@chicagocitywideliteracy.org
- [Sign up to receive the South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College Resources Newsletter here.](#)
- The next South Suburban Cook County American Job Center at Prairie State College Monthly Partner Meeting will be held on September 16th at 10:00 am.