



**South Suburban Cook County American Job Center
at Prairie State College**
Monthly Partners Meeting
March 18th, 2021
10:00 am

Meeting Attendees:

Albert Sancho, IDES; Emily Orenstein, Housing Authority of Cook County; Georges Sanon, Prairie State College; Jackie Owens, National Able Network SCSEP; Jillian Campbell, IDES; Kevin Averyhart, Veterans Forward; Kisha Brown, Prairie State College; Kristi Chevali, CCWP; Meg Dawczak, MVCC; Pilar Trejo, CCWP; Rocio Montoya, National Able Network; Renee McClinton, SSC; Rose Parker, IDHS DRS; Roger Fisher, Job Corps; Tina Salgado, IDES; Vicky Garcia, Prairie State College; Megan McGinty, CCLC; Nidia Mejia, CCLC.

Agenda:

- Project Status Update
- Inventory and Assessment Brief Overview
- Dashboard
- Partner Updates

CCLC Update:

- Nidia provided a project status update and a brief overview of the OSO Inventory and Assessment findings. The OSO team offered to hold a separate presentation to discuss the Inventory and Assessment Phase Results and next steps. Reach out to OSO if you or your staff are interested.
- She talked about the Project Team Meetings, which will consist of volunteers from partner agencies who will convene as needed and work with OSO to create and implement new, system-wide projects like WIOA Orientation, Cross Training, and new Customer Satisfaction Survey. If anyone is interested in volunteering to work on these new projects, they are encouraged to send an email oso@chicagocitywideliteracy.org.

Partner Updates:

American Job Center Building Update

- South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College continues to operate virtually.

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA Title I)

National Able Network

- National Able Network is hiring, view postings at <https://www.nationalable.org/careers/>
- They have been celebrating Women's History Month by sharing success stories with their participants.
- Information comes out each week about job readiness workshops, orientation, and training guidance for those pursuing short-term certifications.

- The upcoming Workforce Wednesday is scheduled for April 7th from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm. Job seekers can [register here](#).

Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership (CCWP)

- There was network-wide training for career coaches to make sure frontline staff stays abreast on the best ways to work with participants and provide documentation in their system. The ultimate goal is to ensure service delivery is smooth and effective.
- Free digital literacy courses can be found on the events page. <https://chicookworks.org/events/>

Trade Adjustment Act

- Orientation will be held on Monday, March 22nd. An invitation is required to attend orientation sessions.
- National Able Network provided an updated employer list. If you have participants who have been affected by layoffs from these layoffs: Follett Corporation; Mercury Plastics, Inc.; Pactiv LLC; Korn Ferry; Solo Cup Operating Corp; Mercury Plastics Inc; Castwell Products; ATI Holdings; Alight Solutions LLC; Metal Box Int'l; The Boeing Company; HCL America Inc., Ricoh USA, Inc., they may be eligible for additional benefits through TAA.
- The TAA Program is similar to WIOA, in which customers can take advantage of training at different agencies while receiving benefits; however, the TAA program is not bound to a specific list of agencies and has the ability to work with the individual to find the program and agency that best fits their needs.
- Timeliness is very important, so if you find any job seekers who were laid off from the aforementioned employers, refer them to TAA at National Able or Angela Lopez as soon as possible.
- Contact Angela Lopez for more information alopez@nationalable.org. Individuals can also call 855-994-8300 or email TAA@nationalable.org.

Adult Education and Literacy Services

Prairie State College

- The last start classes for GED and ESL will end in May. They will also have 3-week summer courses.
- On April 8th, from 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm, the Military Student Affairs Center will be presenting a Military Affiliated Virtual Resources Seminar. Leave No Veteran Behind, National Able's Veterans Forward, Workforce Equity Initiative and Inner Voice will provide information about their services. Please feel free to share this worthwhile program through your military affiliated community network. Reach out to Georges Sanon for questions at gsanon@prairiestate.edu.
 - Registration is not required, participants can click this link to join. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89500041820?pwd=T1V2elNsSGVfVEdid0tPZVBtME8zUT09>
 - Meeting ID: 895 0004 1820
 - Passcode: 923987
- Adult Literacy is preparing to relaunch on-campus tutoring in late Spring/early Summer and they need volunteers for math and reading tutoring. Reach out to Kisha Brown, Adult Literacy Specialist at nbrown1@prairiestatecollege.edu or 708.607.2898 if any participants are interested.

South Suburban College

- Registration for ESL and GED classes start next week. Classes begin April 19th. With CTE/Perkins, they started their new barbering program. Regular classes are continuing.

- [Click here to view the ESL registration flyer.](#)
- [Click here to view the GED/HSE registration flyer.](#)

Moraine Valley Community College

- They are in the middle of their Spring semester; ESL and HSE classes will end mid-April. They had open-enrollment, which was beneficial. They have hybrid and online classes.
- MVCC is running two summer sessions: 7-week session from May 3rd - June 18th and 8-week session from July 7th - Sept 3rd.
- One of their ESL Instructors received an award at the 2021 IACEA conference.

Illinois Department of Employment Services

- IDES offices are still closed to the public. They continue to assist unemployment clients and work on reemployment. A lot of people are still seeking out unemployment benefits. If participants need assistance, please direct them to the customer service center number.
- Albert shared that they're working with 45 participants in RESEA workshops at their local office. They are selecting people and making referrals to different partners and WIOA training/job development training. They continue to look for different avenues to get people into training.
- The Virtual Job Fair with Rep. Kam Buckner is scheduled for March 29th, April 1st, and April 2nd. Online workshops will be offered on March 29th from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. The employer panel/virtual job fair booths will be held on April 1st from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. On April 2nd from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, there will be small group interviews with employers that can lead to job offers. Participants can [register here](#).
- The Illinois Community College Career Services Professionals (IC3SP) Commission is hosting its first statewide virtual career fair, 'Your Future Now' on Friday, April 9, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. [View the event information here.](#)
- For questions regarding 1099-G Tax form, refer to the IDES website. <https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/1099G%20form.aspx>
- The number of fraudulent claims has decreased. Frequently asked questions and information on fraudulent unemployment claims can be found at https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/FAQ_COVID-19.aspx.

Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)

- Maximum monthly SNAP allotments are temporarily increased by 15% for each month until 06/30/2021.
- [P-EBT Public Website](#) and Call Center Live (1-833-621-0737) - The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) provides benefits to children who receive free or reduced-price school meals under the National School Lunch Program. P-EBT is a temporary food benefit program operating during the COVID-19 pandemic. P-EBT only provides benefits for days that students are remote learning, but without being offered a meal at school, or home for an approved COVID-related absence. View [P-EBT FAQs here](#).
- TANF and AABD cash households will no longer have an additional 6 months benefit extension added to their current certification period.
- Registration for the WIOA summit is now open. [2021 Illinois WIOA Virtual Summit](#)
- The WIOA online Summit will take place on April 27th and 28th. The theme for this year is Service Integration: Collaboration and Innovation.
- This month's WIOA Wednesday Webinars:
 - [Providing Services to Persons With a Sensory Disability - March 24th at 10:00](#)

- [am](#)
- [WIOA Services – Why, How, When - March 31st at 10:00 am](#)
- [Introduction to Workers' Rights and Workforce Development - March 24th at 1:00 pm](#)
- [Ticket to Work - March 31st at 1:00 pm](#)

Division of Rehabilitation Services

- The Arlington AJC office is moving to Rolling Meadows.
- There are 5 regions and Region 1 covers Chicago. Several regions are being subdivided. Keith McKinley will now oversee Region 1 North and Rochelle Chambers-Hyndman will oversee Region 1 South.
- Participants are finding it beneficial to receive virtual services, which is a shift that came along with increased digital literacy throughout the past year.
- A new staff member will be joining the team to fill Biswa Phuyal's role.

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

National Able Network SCSEP

- They have a presence at Prairie State College and can meet with participants.
- They are currently enrolling and participants can contact the customer service phone number, 888.315.8558
- If you would like to become a host agency, reach out to Jackie Owens at jowens@nationalable.org.

National Able Network Veterans Forward

- Operations continue to be offered virtually. Orientation takes place every Wednesday at 10:00 am.
- Veterans Forward can work with veterans of all discharge status.
- Reach out to Kevin Averyhart at for questions at kaveryhart@nationalable.org.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Housing Authority of Cook County

- They are now wrapping up their recruitment and orientation phase with their Opportunity Works program for HACC residents in the Chicago Heights area.

Job Corps

- They are returning to full capacity with the students who were enrolled pre-COVID.
- Recently submitted a center action plan to create new ways to increase engagement and enhance rapport with employers. They have been building business partnerships through referrals and various workforce groups.
- They have a WebEx Quarterly Community Relations Committee to share details about JC and Joliet Center updates on Friday, March 26th at 10:00 am. They'll also have students attend to share their stories. Contact fisher.roger@jobcorps.org for an invitation.
- Roger Fisher shared that with permission and approval, individuals can visit the center if they want to connect. They hope to use other partners as an asset.
- Programs offered include construction, office administration, health care, pharmacy technician, certified nursing assistant, homeland security, law enforcement, border control, and culinary.
- A new emergency response EMT curriculum will possibly be rolled out.
- For questions reach out to Roger Fisher at fisher.roger@jobcorps.org, or call main 815.768.8962, or cell 773.208.2068.

Legal Aid Chicago

- For questions regarding Public Benefits assistance for information about SNAP, Medicaid & Cash benefits, call 312.347.8342. Staff speak multiple languages.

Next Steps:

- All partners will provide updated flyers.
- The next three meetings will take place on April 15th at 10:00 am, May 20th at 10:00 am, and June 17th at 10:00 am.