



**South Suburban Cook County American Job Center  
at Prairie State College  
Monthly Partners Meeting  
April 15th, 2021  
10:00 am**

***Meeting Attendees:***

Albert Sancho, IDES; Anna Slater, IDES; Emily Orenstein, Housing Authority of Cook County; Georges Sanon, Prairie State College; Jacqueline Owens, National Able SCSEP; Kevin Averyhart, National Able Veterans Forward; Kindy Kruller, Cook County Bureau of Economic Development; Matthew Beasland, South Suburban College; Meg Dawczak, Moraine Valley Community College; Regina Rizzo, Legal Aid Chicago; Rochelle Chambers, IDHS; Tina Salgado, IDES, Virginia Garcia, Prairie State College; Megan McGinty, CCLC; Nidia Mejia, CCLC, Robert Guzman.

***Agenda:***

- Project Status Update
- Zendesk Introduction
- Dashboard
- Partner Updates

***CCLC Update:***

- Megan provided a brief overview of the project plan. She talked about the Project Team volunteers and the first team meeting that took place. Megan provided information about Zendesk and how the OSO plans on using the system. Then, we reviewed the visual Dashboard.
- To access OSO Meeting Minutes for all ten American Job Centers, visit <https://workforceboard.zendesk.com>.

***Partner Updates:***

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

- Operations continue to be offered virtually.

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA Title I)

National Able Network

- Techpalooza will be held on April 22nd from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. National Able Network's IT sector center and other WIOA One-Stop Partners are collaborating on this event. Participants can [register here](#).

Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership (CCWP)

- Request For Proposal (RFP): American Job Centers WIOA Title I Services is posted [here](#). Proposals must be submitted by 4:00 PM (CDST) on Friday, April 23, 2021. Proposals must be submitted electronically. You can find the full RFP, the AJC Bidders' Conference PowerPoint and Recording on the website.

#### Trade Adjustment Act

- 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., 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](mailto:alopez@nationalable.org). Individuals can also call 855-994-8300 or email [TAA@nationalable.org](mailto:TAA@nationalable.org).

#### Adult Education and Literacy Services

##### Prairie State College

- They are wrapping up the Spring semester. Summer registration is open and registration for Fall is ongoing.
- Prairie State College will reopen at the end of April/beginning of May. Staff will be working on a rotating schedule to provide student services on campus.
- A Military Affiliated Jobs Forum will be held on Thursday, April 22nd. Guest speakers include the CTA, Chicagoland Regional College Program, Chicago LightHouse, Amazon, and State of Illinois Central Managing Services.
  - Registration is not required for attendees. Below is the Zoom meeting link, meeting ID and passcode.
  - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85044142580?pwd=ajg2M1N6elBOR1YrUFVKRngyZncrZz09>
  - Meeting ID: 850 4414 2580
  - Passcode: 126807
- Unemployed Veterans can receive assistance with tuition and a stipend. More information regarding registration will be presented next month.

##### South Suburban College

- They just wrapped up the Spring 2021 registration. Classes start April 19th and will run through June 7th.
- They are working on multiple grants including the Adult Education and Family Literacy grant and the CTE/Perkins grant.
- Staff will be returning to campus on June 7th. The Fall semester will be offered virtually and in-person. Students will have the opportunity to opt for in-person instruction and the percentage of online vs. onsite classes will be based on enrollment.

#### Career and Technical Education (CTE)

#### South Suburban College

- They are looking to offer cosmetology and culinary arts in the near future through the Perkins grant. This comes at the request of local school districts.

#### Moraine Valley Community College

- They will be wrapping up Spring classes next week.
- They will be offering two summer sessions, the first session will run May 3rd - June 17th and the second session will run from July 7th - September 22nd. Classes will be offered hybrid and in-person.
- Programs offered include Citizenship, Conversation classes, ESL, and High School Equivalency (HSE). For more information and next steps, call 708.974.5340
  - Citizenship Class has registration on Monday, May 3rd at 9:00 am for the 7-week Monday/Wednesday morning classes. Registration is held in Room 209. On Tuesday, May 4th at 12:30 pm, registration for the Tuesday/Thursday afternoon classes will be held in Room B256.
  - The ESL Online conversation class is on every Wednesday from 6:00 - 8:00 pm from May 5th - June 16th or every Saturday from 8:00 - 10:00 am from May 1st - June 19th.
- Staff have been back in the office since the beginning of the Spring semester.
- They expect to have an in-person graduation for the HSE program on June 8th. Students from the previous year will be invited.

#### Illinois Department of Employment Services

- The number of UI Claimants continues to be on the rise.
- They have been working with employers who expect to lay off employees.
- For questions or concerns regarding Unemployment Insurance, participants can refer to IDES website [https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/aboutides/Pages/Office\\_Locator.aspx](https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/aboutides/Pages/Office_Locator.aspx) or call the Customer Service Center 800-244-5631. IDES staff are working overtime to meet the high demand of callers and timely follow up.
- Staff have been reaching out to individuals who are receiving unemployment benefits to offer employment, veterans services, and other programs. They have also been targeting high school students and potential college students to offer apprenticeship opportunities with the collaboration of Senator Michael Hastings and Senator Patrick Joyce. Participants can register for [Careers in the Trades - Employment Realities here](#).

#### Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (IDES DVOP)

- Services are provided to those with significant barriers to employment.
- Reach out to Jillian Campbell DVOP Vet Employment Rep at [jilliann.campbell@illinois.gov](mailto:jilliann.campbell@illinois.gov).

#### Division of Rehabilitation Services

- DRS continues to accept referrals and provide services remotely.
- Angela Young is our DRS representative for the Chicago Heights area. Reach out to Angela at [angela.s.young@illinois.gov](mailto:angela.s.young@illinois.gov) with questions or referrals.
- Anyone with a mental or physical disability can receive assistance. You can refer to the site below for a list of locations and agencies. <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=12&officetype=7> Or to find the nearest local office call toll-free: (800) 843-6154 (Voice, English or Español) or (800) 447-6404 (TTY).
- BBS/Bureau of Blind Services is a separate program from the general Vocational program to address their specialized concerns. Please visit IDHS: Services for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired to make a referral.

- They are providing employer assistance on how to provide accommodations to employees with disabilities.
- If you know anyone with an IEP, they can receive VR assistance to be evaluated.

#### Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)

- The temporary 15% monthly increase for SNAP allotment has been extended to September 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.
- Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition will be presenting at the WIOA Summit.
- Register for upcoming WIOA Webinars here:
  - [Autism in the Workplace – Strategies to Support Individuals with ASD in the Workplace on April 21st at 10:00 am](#)
  - [Immersive Learning: Looking into the Crystal Ball on May 5th at 10:00 am](#)
  - [Providing Services to Persons With a Sensory Disability on May 12th at 10:00](#)

#### Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

##### National Able Network SCSEP

- Jacqueline Owens is onsite at Prairie State College on Mondays and Wednesdays
- To refer participants 55 and older to National Able's SCSEP program, contact Jackie Owens at [jowens@nationalable.org](mailto:jowens@nationalable.org).
- They are looking for host agencies. If you know of any non-for-profit agencies interested in training seniors, reach out to Jackie Owens at [jowens@nationalable.org](mailto:jowens@nationalable.org).

##### National Able Network Veterans Forward

- They continue to offer online registration.
- Orientation is offered every Wednesday from 10:00 - 11:00 am.
- They are in the process of planning a hybrid virtual fair with employers and community partners.

#### Job Corps

- They will start the enrollment process for new students. Enrollment will begin virtually and eventually, new students will be introduced on campus on a biweekly basis similar to that during COVID for returning students.
- Their Business Infrastructure Technology Program was ranked third in the country for placement.
- They have students in industries like pharmacy tech, culinary, and homeland security. Recently, nine students graduated from the program and found positions in their fields.

Other students receiving advanced training have been given the opportunity to transfer from Joliet to other Job Corps centers.

- Reach out to Roger Fisher, [fisher.roger@jobcorps.org](mailto:fisher.roger@jobcorps.org), to connect and learn more about Joliet Job Corps center.

#### Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

##### Housing Authority of Cook County

- They are working on developing a program to provide stipends for job seekers looking to return to school.
- Reach out to Emily Orenstein at [eorenstein@thehacc.org](mailto:eorenstein@thehacc.org) with questions or potential opportunities to collaborate with HACC.

#### CEDA

- CEDA is working remotely. Their Barriers Reduction Program (BRP) is open to SNAP recipients and people at risk of losing housing.
- Participants can find more information about CEDA services at <https://www.cedaorg.net/>

#### Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

##### Cook County Bureau of Economic Development

- Kindy Kruller, the Economic Development Program Manager, joined us to learn how the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development can support One-Stop Partners and engage directly to build stronger partnerships and programs.
- The Bureau has an Apprenticeship Navigator program focused on furthering businesses understanding of the benefits of apprenticeships. They are closely involved in the manufacturing industry and also looking for culinary and pharmacy technician opportunities. Kindy hopes to review opportunities and make connections with employers.
- Contact Kindy, [kindy.kruller@cookcountyiil.gov](mailto:kindy.kruller@cookcountyiil.gov), if you are interested in learning more about the Bureau of Economic Development, Apprenticeship Navigator program, Calumet Manufacturing Industrial Partnership, or ways to collaborate in any capacity.

#### Legal Aid Chicago

- Legal Aid Chicago and Cannabis Equity Illinois are holding two events in April:
  - The Wraparound Reentry Resource Fair will be held on April 24th from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm. This fair will be in-person at Precious Blood Ministries in Back of the Yards. Participants can learn about wraparound services like food assistance, housing, and job opportunities.
  - The RAP Sheet Assistance Day will be held on April 30th from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm at 35th Street and Michigan Avenue in Chicago. [Share this registration form](#) with participants who would like to receive transportation to CPD headquarters and have Legal Aid Chicago pay for their RAP sheet and begin free record clearing services.
- Legal Aid also has their free Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic and other free legal clinics and programs. Contact Regina Rizzo, [rrizzo@legalaidchicago.org](mailto:rrizzo@legalaidchicago.org), for more information about Legal Aid programs and upcoming events.

#### **Next Steps:**

- All partners will provide updated flyers.

- The next two meetings will be held on May 20th at 10:00 am and June 17th at 10:00 am.