



South Suburban Cook County American Job Center at Prairie State College

Monthly Partners Meeting
May 19th, 2022
10:00 am

Meeting Attendees:

April Walton, National Able Network; Arthur Hawkins, Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS); Christopher McElroy, South Suburban College; D'Lonra Gary, Joliet Job Corps; Debbie Newman, Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC); Georges Sanon, Prairie State College; Jacqueline Owens, National Able Network; Meg Dawczak, Moraine Valley Community College; Nikki Rogers, Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES); Regina Rizzo, Legal Aid Chicago; Rene Cabrejas, IDES; Rocio Montoya, National Able Network; Rosylen McGhee, IDES; Tiara Davis, Youth Job Center; Valencia Funches, Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS); Vicky Garcia, Prairie State College; Megan McGinty, scaleLIT; Nidia Mejia, scaleLIT; and Robert Guzman, scaleLIT.

Agenda:

- scaleLIT Transition
- AJC Orientation
 - Orientation Materials Evaluation Results
 - [Spanish AJC Orientation](#)
- Trending Topic: [Understanding Broadband Equity Initiatives](#)
- Systemwide Meeting in June
- Partner Updates

OSO Update:

- In April, Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition rebranded, and officially changed our new to **scaleLIT**.
 - Starting this month, the One-Stop Operator (OSO) team will switch over all our communications to new emails. If you would like to reach out to the OSO team, send a message to the following emails:
 - One-Stop Operator team, oso@scalelit.org
 - Megan McGinty (OSO Manager), megan@scalelit.org
 - Nidia Mejia (OSO Manager), nidia@scalelit.org
 - Robert Guzman (External Affairs Director), robert@scalelit.org
- The OSO team also sent out an AJC Orientation Materials Evaluation Form last month.

We shared the results of this evaluation with partners. Here are the key takeaways:

- 71% of respondents were using the AJC Orientation Video.
 - [Click here to view the AJC Orientation Video.](#)
- 24% of respondents were using the Customized Program Slides and 33% of respondents were using the Informational Handouts.
 - [Click here to view the Informational Materials.](#)
- Nidia posted the Spanish version of the AJC Orientation Video on Youtube. [Click here to view the Spanish AJC Orientation Video.](#)
- Trending Topic:
 - scaleLIT's Technology Department facilitated an Understanding Broadband Equity Initiatives webinar on Friday, May 6th. Watch this webinar to learn about Digital Equity Initiatives, including the Affordable Connectivity Program, Digital Equity Act, and Internet Essentials by Comcast.
 - [Click here to view the webinar recording.](#)
 - [Click here to view the Illinois Digital Learning Lab Notes Webpage.](#)
- On June 22nd at 1:00 pm, OSO will host a Systemwide Partner Meeting. The event will be virtual and an invitation for the event will be sent at the end of May.
 - The six-month Partner Survey will also be sent out with the invitation.
- [Click here to view the May South Suburban Cook County AJC in North Riverside Resources Newsletter.](#)

Partner Updates:

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

- South Suburban AJC at Prairie State College is open by appointment.

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

National Able Network

- CASAS testing is offered both online and in-person. On Wednesdays, testing is offered in the morning and afternoon.
- In-person orientation is held on Thursdays at 10:00 am and virtual orientation is on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm.
- National Able Network will be collaborating with Partners on the following events:
 - Village of Richton Park Job Fair on June 15th, 2022. [Click here to learn more.](#)
 - Moraine Valley Community College Healthcare Hiring Event on June 9th and June 15th. More information to come.
 - Career Connector Event on June 30th with Prairie State College and August 10th with Oakton Community College. More information to come.
 - Careers de Mayo is on May 24th from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at the National Museum of Mexican Art.

Trade Adjustment Act (TAA)

National Able Network

- The TAA Program is working with FCA and Warm Home Products. Many individuals who are eligible for TAA benefits as a result of these layoffs are Spanish-speaking.
- Contact Daniela Cueva at dcueva@nationalable.org for more information.

WIOA Title I-Y

Youth Job Center (YJC)

- The YJC's This Way Onwards initiative connects youth ages 16 to 24 with job opportunities at Old Navy. To complete the application process, two-day training is required. For more information contact Tiarra Davis at tdavis@youthjobcenter.org.

Prairie State College

- Summer classes begin on May 31st. Fall registration begins in July.
- Reading and writing classes will be offered to students who do not pass the entrance exam.
- One day per week, staff work from home. Summer hours will start in June, with the college closed on Fridays.
- The staff is planning a certificate recognition event.
- Staff is also planning a certificate fair for students to learn about the various programs offered at PSC. They also plan to share funding opportunities that students may be eligible for.
- Loaner laptops are being provided through the Librarian from PSC.
- A Veterans interview event will be held at PSC.
- The Prairie State College Office of Military Student Affairs will have a representative from Jesse Brown VA's VITAL program at the Military Student Affairs Center every second Thursday and fourth Wednesday of the month starting June 22, 2022.
 - The VITAL program is there to help veterans navigate their needs and concerns and maximize their unique skill set of strengths, skills, and life experiences as they develop and translate their interests and talents into an academic setting.
 - [Click here to download the brochure.](#)
 - Reach out to Georges Sanon, Coordinator of the Office of Military Student Affairs, at gsanon@prairiestate.edu.

South Suburban College

- The late spring semester is in session.
- SSC will offer a CNA bridge program and welding ICAPS program in the fall.
- SSC may hold ESL and GED classes at the Calumet City Public Library. Information coming soon.

Moraine Valley Community College

- Moraine Valley Community College is in the middle of its first summer session. Classes end on June 17th.
 - The second Adult Education summer session will be held from July 11th to September 1st.
- On May 20th, Moraine Valley Community College held a graduation for credit students. There were two in-person ceremonies.
- HSE graduation will be held on June 14th at 6:00 PM.

Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)

- Services are available by appointment only.
- Staff recommends individuals call the Call Center at (800) 244-5631 with any questions that do not require in-person support.
- Staff is seeing a large number of customers who are seeking employment.

Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)

- Customers are exempt from the SNAP work requirements until June 2023. Individuals do not need to be working or enrolled in work programs to receive SNAP.
- The next virtual town hall for the Child Support Division will be held on May 25th.
- Customers now have the option to receive texts or emails about their benefits. Customers can set up notifications through Manage My Case on the <https://abe.illinois.gov/abe/access/> website.
 - Customers can get alerts whenever there are notices about interviews, benefits expirations, or denials.
- The State of Illinois is now offering healthcare benefits coverage, as of March 25th, to senior undocumented IL residents. Individuals who are unable to receive Medicaid and earn below the federal poverty level can apply online or at the local IDHS office.
 - [Click here to visit the ABE \(Application for Benefits Eligibility\) website.](#)

Vocational Rehabilitation

IDHS Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)

- Partners can connect with the field offices via phone or website. They continue to accept referrals online. [Please encourage residents to visit DHS public page to learn more about DRS services and the application process.](#)
- The central office for DRS is relocating. More information to come.
- Reach out to Biswa Phuyal at biswa.phuyal2@illinois.gov and Arthur Hawkins at Arthur.Hawkins2@illinois.gov.

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

National Able Network SCSEP

- If you have any participants who are 55+, have them call 855-994-8300 and Jackie will set up an eligibility interview. Senior Veterans are also encouraged to take advantage of job placement services.
- Jackie is also interested in identifying additional host agencies to place SCSEP participants for hands-on training. SCSEP will pay the stipend. If you would like to learn more about being a host agency, email Jackie at jowens@nationalable.org.
- Reach out to Jackie Owens at jowens@nationalable.org with questions.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC)

- Reach out to Emily Orenstein at eorenstein@thehacc.org with any questions.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

CEDA

- The BRP program ended on Friday, May 5th. All other programs - dental, vision, case management, LIHEAP, trade skills, etc. - continue. CEDA's summer camp program will also be offered.
- Reach out to Lisa Baugh, Regional Manager, at Lisa.Baugh@cedaorg.net.

Job Corps

- Virtual enrollment is coming to an end for the Joliet Job Corps Center. Traditional registration will resume in June.
- Registration is open for all programs. Female and male dorms are open.

- Job Corps is looking to expand its outreach efforts with community-based organizations. The staff is excited to engage in upcoming events. To share events, contact D'Lonra Gary at gary.dlonra@jobcorps.org.
- The Paul Simon Job Corps center is currently changing contracts. There is a pause on bringing students onto campus; however, applications are still being processed.

Legal Aid Chicago

- Legal Aid Chicago offices are open by appointment only.
- Legal Aid Chicago has legal teams specializing in a variety of areas, covering employment, immigration, education, child and family services, records relief, public benefits, and veterans.
 - The Senior Services program through DFSS and the Fair Housing program continue to be offered to Cook County residents.
- Regina encourages all partners to use Legal Aid Chicago as a resource for clients and teams. If you are interested in having any legal teams share a presentation with your team or customers, reach out to Regina at rrizzo@legalaidchicago.org.

Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC)

- Through the One Workforce Program, CAIC can cover tuition, books, and fees for students pursuing manufacturing at 10 community colleges and other providers. [Click here to learn more about the One Workforce Program.](#)
 - CAIC can support students who are completing training at any of our Adult Education Partners at this AJC (Moraine Valley Community College, Prairie State College, and South Suburban College) and are interested in pursuing a Manufacturing Career Pathway.
 - [Click here to view the Approved Manufacturing Programs.](#)
 - You can also refer high school seniors who may be interested in manufacturing to the interest form on the website.
- Reach out to Debbie Newman at debbie@calumetareaindustrial.com or Melissa Veach at melissa@calumetareaindustrial.com with any questions.

Next Steps:

- Updated flyers can be submitted to the OSO email address at oso@scalelit.org.