



## South Suburban Cook County American Job Center at Prairie State College

Monthly Partner Meeting  
March 17th, 2022  
10:00 am

### **Meeting Attendees:**

April Walton, National Able Network; Araceli Olivares, Cook County Department of Public Health; Audrea Wilder, Prairie State College; Briana Wells, South Suburban College; Brittney Davis, Job Corps; Christopher McElroy, South Suburban College; Craig Schmidt, Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC); D'Lonra Gary, Job Corps; Debbie Newman, CAIC; Gabe Murcia, National Able Network; Gabrielle Bell, National Able Network; Georges Sanon, Prairie State College; Jackie Owens, National Able Network SCSEP; Jillian Campbell, Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES); Kisha Brown, Prairie State College; Lisa Baugh, CEDA; Matt Weis, National Able Network; Meg Dawczak, Moraine Valley Community College; Melvin McGowan, Job Corps; NuDonna Williams, Youth Job Center; Raylynn Stokes, South Suburban College; Regina Rizzo, Legal Aid Chicago; Rocío Montoya, National Able Network; Roger Fisher, Prairie State College; Rosylen McGhee, IDES; Summar Alnuami, National Able Network; Tiara Davis, Youth Job Center; Tina Salgado, IDES; Valencia Funches, Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS); Megan McGinty, Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition (CCLC), Nidia Mejia, CCLC, and Robert Guzman CCLC.

### **Agenda:**

- Sector Center Spotlight: Information Technology (IT)
- Partner Updates

### **OSO Update:**

- OSO has planned a Sector Center Spotlight for the first four monthly partner meetings of 2022. All four sector centers have been invited to these meetings. This month, we gave a spotlight to the IT Sector Center.
  - In April, the Healthcare Sector Center will present.
- Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition is gearing up for our 5th annual awards ceremony, Beyond Books on Wednesday, April 6th at 5:30 pm at the Newberry Library.
  - At this event, we are presenting an award to a phenomenal adult learner and recognizing The Honorable Jesse White, Illinois Secretary of State, Mr. David Pesqueira, Senior Program Officer for the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, and Mrs. Kathy Allison, Executive Director of United for Better Living.
  - [Click here if you would like to learn more about Beyond Books and purchase tickets.](#)
- [Click here to view the March South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College Resources Newsletter.](#)

## **Information Technology (IT) Sector Center Spotlight:**

- What is the IT Sector Center?
  - A Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership funded Sector that promotes the workforce system's business services by delivering recruitment and retention services. It creates an entry point for job seekers and business partners that lead to a variety of Information Technology career pathways.
- Why have an IT Sector?
  - Chicago ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in cities posting "Tech" jobs.
  - IT transcends all job markets. Every company has IT needs.
- Benefits to working with the IT Sector Center
  - Job Seeker support, including:
    - Resume review
    - Mock Interviews
    - Direct access to employer job orders
    - Applicant priority/direct access to Human Resources and Hiring Managers
  - Access to additional Partner resources, including other workforce Sectors and job opportunities outside of IT
- How to contact the IT Sector Center
  - [ITJobs@nationalable.org](mailto:ITJobs@nationalable.org)
- Types of Job Orders
  - Software Development
  - Project Management
  - Networking/Engineering
  - Business Analysts
  - Web Development
- How do we work with AJCs?
  - Workforce events for job seekers like:
    - Techapalooza: March 23rd
      - [Click here to register for the upcoming Techapalooza.](#)
      - [Click here to view the National Able Network calendar.](#)
  - Work one-on-one with job seekers to identify job search needs and advise on best practices and strategies for sustainable employment
  - Offer guidance on Training Vouchers by recommending appropriate classes and institutions that provide IT training curriculum
- [Click here to view the National Able Network IT Sector Center Spotlight Presentation.](#)
- Gabe Murcia, [gmurcia@nationalable.org](mailto:gmurcia@nationalable.org), and Summer Alnuaimi, [salnuaimi@nationalable.org](mailto:salnuaimi@nationalable.org), can answer any questions.

## **Partner Updates:**

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

- The AJC has new business hours and will be open 8:30 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. They will have a soft opening and slowly allow more clients to set up appointments for in-person services. They are also welcoming walk-ins and staff are committed to making the transition into in-person services as smooth as possible.

- Services through the American Job Center, including CASAS testing, continue to be offered both virtually or in-person by appointment.
- National Able Network received new computers for the Resource Room from the Partnership.
- PCs for People will be at the South Suburban AJC at Prairie State College on March 24th from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm.
  - PC for People helps individuals who need assistance obtaining hotspots, internet, PCs, and Chromebooks. [Click here to learn more about PCS for People.](#)

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

##### National Able Network

- National Able continues to recruit adult and dislocated workers.
- Orientation is offered virtually on Tuesdays from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm. They will soon begin to offer in-person and virtual sessions. More information to come.
  - National Able Network recently added information about CHA/HCV to their weekly orientation.
- All National Able Network events, including Workforce Wednesdays, are posted on the [National Able Online Calendar. Click here to visit.](#)
- April Walton, Director of Workforce Services for National Able Network, is available via email at [awalton@nationalable.org](mailto:awalton@nationalable.org).
- Questions specific to Career Services at South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College can be directed to Rocio Montoya at [rmontoya@nationalable.org](mailto:rmontoya@nationalable.org).

#### Trade Adjustment Act (TAA)

##### National Able Network

- Orientation attendance has been excellent. Orientations are held on Tuesdays from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm. Letters have been sent by IDES to qualifying individuals who have been laid off from approved employers.
- Reach out to Daniela Cueva, via email at [dcueva@nationalable.org](mailto:dcueva@nationalable.org) or encourage individuals to call 855-994-8300.

#### WIOA Title I-Y

##### Youth Job Center (YJC)

- YJC is holding a Virtual Job Fair on Thursday, March 31st from 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm. To attend, students must be 16-24 years of age. This event is catered toward youth attending Chicago Public School or Evanston Township High School.
  - Students have to complete three days of work-readiness training.
  - [Click here for the registration form.](#)
  - [Click here to view the flyer.](#)
- YJC has been presenting at the National Able Network Orientations on Tuesdays.
- Reach out to NuDonna Williams, Senior Programs Manager, at [nwilliams@youthjobcenter.org](mailto:nwilliams@youthjobcenter.org).
  - YJC has Career Advisors who are onsite regularly.
    - Brittiny Martin is at both Near West AJC in Pilsen and South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College. You can reach out to Brittiny at [bmartin@youthjobcenter.org](mailto:bmartin@youthjobcenter.org).
    - Tiara Davis is at the South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College. You can reach out to Tiara at [tdavis@youthjobcenter.org](mailto:tdavis@youthjobcenter.org).

### Prairie State College (PSC)

- PCS Military Affairs Office will participate in the Veterans Resource Fair hosted by Veteran's Forward on March 29th - 31st at Near West AJC in Pilsen. [Click here for more information.](#)
  - They plan to host another Veterans Resource Fair on April 12th at the South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College.
- PSC continues to look for Adult Literacy tutors. If you know of any adult learners who are interested in becoming volunteer tutors, reach out to Kisha Brown at [nbrown1@prairiestate.edu](mailto:nbrown1@prairiestate.edu).
- Registration for the CDL program is now open, and scholarship opportunities are available. Reach out to George Sanon at [gsanon@prairiestate.edu](mailto:gsanon@prairiestate.edu) or Roger Fisher at [rfisher6@prairiestate.edu](mailto:rfisher6@prairiestate.edu) for more information.
  - Classes are relatively small and allow for students to receive extensive training. Students must have an Illinois driver's license and be over the age of 21.
  - [Click here to learn more.](#)
- PSC now has Mobile Training Centers. [Click here for more information.](#)

### South Suburban College (SSC)

- Registration is open for late Spring courses. Prospective students can make appointments for registration. SSC offers morning, afternoon, and evening classes in-person and online.
  - [Click here for ESL Registration.](#)
  - [Click here for GED Registration.](#)
- Loaner laptops and hotspots are available upon request.
- SSC is holding WIOA Orientation on the second week of each month. The next two orientations are on April 7th and May 12th.
- On March 24th, UPS is coming out to the SSC Oak Forest campus for a Truck Driving Job Fair.
- SSC is open to expanding its reach by hosting ESL classes at offsites. They want to stay within their APC but would like to offer classes beyond their South Holland and Oak Forest campuses.
  - Feel free to contact Christopher McElroy at [cmcelroy@ssc.edu](mailto:cmcelroy@ssc.edu) if you know anyone who might be interested.

### Moraine Valley Community College (MVCC)

- Spring classes are in session. They are running two summer sessions, one in May - June and another in July - September.
  - They have a waitlist of 150 ESL students and 70 HSE students. MVCC is having a tough time finding instructors for these classes. If you know someone who may be interested in an adjunct, part-time Adult Ed instructor. [Click here for more information.](#)
- To learn more about MVCC adult programming, click [here](#).
- Reach out to Meg Dawczak at [dawczakm@morainevalley.edu](mailto:dawczakm@morainevalley.edu) with any questions.

### Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)

- The March Madness Virtual Hiring Event Recordings have been uploaded to YouTube.
  - [Click here to view the recording from March 8th.](#)
  - [Click here to view the recording from March 10th.](#)
- RESEA workshops continue. Staff have been interacting with participants and referring them to appropriate resources. They have also been working with veterans to connect them with assistance.

- Reach out to Tina Salgado at [Tina.Salgado@illinois.gov](mailto:Tina.Salgado@illinois.gov) or Rosylen McGhee at [Rosylen.Mcghee@illinois.gov](mailto:Rosylen.Mcghee@illinois.gov) with any questions.
- Individuals who received unemployment benefits last year can learn how to receive their 1099-G form by [clicking here](#).
  - IDES has timeslots to support individuals who need support with accessing their 1099-G forms. Claimants can come in from 8:30 - 9:30 am and 4:00 - 5:00 pm for tax form assistance.

#### IDES Veterans Services

- Jillian Campbell, DVOP for Harvey and PSC, is now back in person at the Harvey IDES office. Reach out to Jillian at [jillian.campbell@illinois.gov](mailto:jillian.campbell@illinois.gov).

#### Veteran's Forward at National Able Network

- Veteran's Forward is hosting a Veterans Resource Fair on March 30th and 31st at Near West AJC in Pilsen. Veteran's Forward plans to host a Veterans Resource Fair at the South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College on April 12th. [Click here for more information](#).
- If there are any questions, reach out to Loretta Coleman at [lcoleman@nationalable.org](mailto:lcoleman@nationalable.org).

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

- The work requirements for ABAWDs are waived until the end of June 2022. TANF customers are still required to be engaged in work or training-related activities.
- There are now 11 grocery stores that allow SNAP customers in Illinois to order food online.
- Contact Valencia Funches at [valencia.funches@illinois.gov](mailto:valencia.funches@illinois.gov) with any questions or referrals.

#### Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

##### IDHS Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)

- Field offices are still closed.
- DRS offers supportive services to individuals with disabilities. Contact Arthur Hawkins at [Arthur.Hawkins2@illinois.gov](mailto:Arthur.Hawkins2@illinois.gov) or Rochelle Chambers at [rochelle.chambers-hyndman@illinois.gov](mailto:rochelle.chambers-hyndman@illinois.gov) for more information.
- 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.](#)

#### 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.
- 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](mailto:jowens@nationalable.org).

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

##### The Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC)

- Reach out to Emily Orenstein at [eorenstein@thehacc.org](mailto:eorenstein@thehacc.org) with any questions.

## Job Corps

- Paul Simon Job Corps Center has all its residential students on campus. Job Corps changed the mask policy and students can be unmasked while maintaining social distancing.
- The center is accepting applications for youth 16-24-year-olds who are interested in finishing their education and/or getting trade certifications. The Paul Simon Center provides 8 different career training programs. Click [here](#) to learn more about Job Corps offerings.
- Reach out to Brittney Davis at [davis.brittney@jobcorps.org](mailto:davis.brittney@jobcorps.org) with questions.

## CEDA

- CEDA is hiring for three Family Support Specialist (FSS) positions. One FSS position is for bilingual candidates.
  - [Please share this PDF](#) and if you know someone, have them upload their resume on the [CEDA Website](#).
  - Be sure they are applying for the position in the Harvey location. In the interim, please feel free to contact Lisa Baugh with any questions at [Lisa.Baugh@cedaorg.net](mailto:Lisa.Baugh@cedaorg.net).

## Legal Aid Chicago

- 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.
- 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](mailto: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. [Click here to learn more about the One Workforce Program](#).
  - All three Adult Education providers at this AJC (Moraine Valley Community College, South Suburban College, and Prairie State College) are partnering with CAIC on this initiative.
    - [Click here to view the Moraine Valley Community College One Workforce Program flyer](#).
    - [Click here to view the South Suburban College One Workforce Program flyer](#).
    - [Click here to view the Prairie State College One Workforce Program flyer](#).
- Reach out to Debbie Newman at [debbie@calumetareaindustrial.com](mailto:debbie@calumetareaindustrial.com) and Melissa Veach at [Melissa@calumetareaindustrial.com](mailto:Melissa@calumetareaindustrial.com) with any questions.

## Cook County Bureau of Economic Development

- The Cook County Bureau of Economic Development has been tentatively approved to continue as an Apprenticeship Navigator for another round of funding. Click [here](#) to learn

more. If you have any employers interested in apprenticeships, connect them to Kindy via email at [kindy.kruller@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:kindy.kruller@cookcountyil.gov).

***Next Steps:***

- Updated flyers can be submitted to the OSO email address at [oso@chicagocitywideliteracy.org](mailto:oso@chicagocitywideliteracy.org)
- [Click here to sign up to receive the South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College Resources Newsletter.](#)