



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

Monthly Partner Meeting  
January 20th, 2022  
10:00 am

### **Meeting Attendees:**

Alisha Clark, Prairie State College; Anita Johnson, Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS); April Walton, National Able Network; Arthur Hawkins, IDHS DRS; Arturo Alcaron, Pyramid/Healthcare Sector Center; Audrea Wilder, Prairie State College; Brittany Davis, Paul Simon Job Corps Center; Debbie Newman, Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC); D'Lonra Gary, Paul Simon Job Corps Center; Donita Demus, Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES); Georges Sanon, Prairie State College; Herman Jackson, Pyramid/Healthcare Sector Center; Jackie Owens, National Able Network SCSEP; Jude Laude, Youth Job Center; Kelly Brown, Pyramid/Healthcare Sector Center; Kisha Brown, Prairie State College; Loretta Coleman, Veteran's Forward National Able Network; Marion Batey, Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership (CCWP); Matthew Beasland, South Suburban College; M. Diana Gutierrez, South Suburban College; Meg Dawczak, Moraine Valley Community College; Nikki Rogers, IDES; NuDonna Williams, Youth Job Center; Pilar Trejo, Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership (CCWP); Raylynn Stokes, South Suburban College; Reggie Greenwood, Chicago Southland Economic Development; Rocío Montoya, National Able Network; Rosylen McGhee, IDES; Saunja Townsend, Joliet Job Corps Center; Valencia Funches, IDHS; Vicky Garcia, Prairie State College; Megan McGinty, Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition (CCLC).

### **Agenda:**

- [End of the Year Survey](#)
- Referrals Working Group
- Sector Center Spotlight: Hospitality & Tourism
- Partner Updates

### **OSO Update:**

- In December, OSO held a network-wide celebration to close out the year. We celebrated your participation in Partner Meetings and our accomplishments as a One-Stop system.
  - The six-month Partner Feedback Survey was distributed during the celebration, as an opportunity to check in with you and your colleagues and identify what you all want to see from us this year. [Click here to complete the survey.](#)
  - To access the AJC Orientation link and resources, [visit the Partnership's Website and navigate to the Informational Materials sections for this AJC.](#)
- OSO is looking for volunteers for our Referral Project Working Group Meeting on Wednesday, February 16th from 10:00 am - 11:00 am. Partners were invited to volunteer in the chat and encourage their colleagues to volunteer.
  - If you or your colleagues are interested in shaping our Referral Process for the

AJC Network, please contact the OSO team at [oso@chicagocitywideliteracy.org](mailto:oso@chicagocitywideliteracy.org).

- For the next four months, OSO plans on having a sector center spotlight for every monthly partner meeting. All four sector centers have been invited to these meetings. This month, we will spotlight the Hospitality and Tourism Sector Center.
  - In February, the TDL Sector Center will present.
  - In March, the IT Sector Center will present.
  - In April, the Healthcare Sector will present.
- [Click here to view the January South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College Resources Newsletter.](#)

### ***Hospitality & Tourism Sector Center Spotlight:***

- [Click here to download the Hospitality & Tourism Sector Center Spotlight Presentation.](#)
- Sector Centers provide a robust array of services to businesses in four growth industries for our region – Hospitality & Tourism, Healthcare, Information Technology, Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics.
- Hospitality & Tourism Industry – The H&T industry is generally broken into four main categories
  - Hotels/Lodging
  - Food Service/Catering
  - Tourism/Events
  - Business/Professional Occupations
- Key Characteristics of Hospitality Professional – look for specific skills & traits!
- Business Services Available
  - Recruitment/Hiring
  - Job Readiness Training
  - On the Job Training
  - Incumbent Worker Training
  - Customized Training
- Contact us!
  - Facebook – <https://bit.ly/HospTourSectorFB>
  - Instagram – @ChicagoHospitalitySector
  - Twitter – @ChgoHospitality
  - Herman Jackson, Director of Business Services, [hjackson@pyramid-pci.com](mailto:hjackson@pyramid-pci.com)
  - Kelly Brown, Director of Training Services, [kbrown@pyramid-pci.com](mailto:kbrown@pyramid-pci.com)

### ***Partner Updates:***

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

- Services through the American Job Center, including CASAS testing, continue to be offered virtually or in person by appointment.
  - The center is open from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm every day.

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

National Able Network

- April Walton, Director of Workforce Services, 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 Rocío Montoya at [rmontoya@nationalable.org](mailto:rmontoya@nationalable.org).
- All National Able Network events are posted on the [National Able Online Calendar](#). [Click here to visit.](#)

#### Trade Adjustment Act (TAA)

##### National Able Network

- Orientation attendance has been excellent.
- Daniela Cueva, TAA Program Manager, has a list of companies that have very recently had their petitions approved. When we receive an updated employer list, we will share that.
  - The most recent employer list is as follows: 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.
- Reach out to Daniela Cueva, via email at [dcueva@nationalable.org](mailto:dcueva@nationalable.org) or encourage individuals to call 855-994-8300.

#### Youth Job Center (YJC)

- YJC is creating a Basic Automotive Training Program with Olive-Harvey College. This will be an 8-week program, in-person, from March 14th through May 13th.
  - This program will include paid-work experience opportunities, where employer partners host participants, and they are paid by YJC and Olive-Harvey. This program is targeted at young people who are looking for an introduction to automotive while being paid.
- YJC has ongoing recruitment for participants aged 18 to 24. Participants interested in receiving services can attend an orientation session to learn more.
- 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).
    - Irma Cornier is at the Near West AJC in Pilsen. You can reach out to Irma at [icornier@youthjobcenter.org](mailto:icornier@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 is registering for ESL and GED courses, which will start on January 31st. Late registration will be open until February 24th.
- The ICAPs CNA Program will start in March, where students will be dual-enrolled in Adult Education classes and a CNA course. They still have funding for 5 more students.
- Any questions regarding Career Pathways programs at PSC should be directed to Vicky Garcia at [vgarcia2@prairiestate.edu](mailto:vgarcia2@prairiestate.edu).

- 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).
- The Military Student Affairs is hosting a Blood Drive on February 10th, to address the blood shortage in this country. Reach out to Georges Sanon at [gsanon@prairiestate.edu](mailto:gsanon@prairiestate.edu) for more information.
- On August 19th, the 484th Army Band will have a free concert at the Barnes & Noble College Auditorium. For more information, contact Geroge Sanon at [gsanon@prairiestate.edu](mailto:gsanon@prairiestate.edu).
- Alisha Clark, Executive Director, Workforce Development and Community Education at PSC, joined our meeting.
- Alisha shared the Prairie State College / 160 Driving Academy Commercial Truck Driving Training Program, CDL-A. With this program, students do not have to pay for tuition. There are *reverse interviews*, where students can choose which company to commit to through corporate sponsorship. Otherwise, students can engage in the program as independent contractors. [Click here for more information.](#)

#### South Suburban College (SSC)

- This was the first week of in-person and online classes. Loaner laptops are offered to students who are currently enrolled and in need of equipment for remote learning.
- Late start virtual classes will begin February 3rd. These will be synchronous classes, offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the morning and evening.
- SSC is looking for instructors and paraprofessionals. If you know anyone interested in these roles, please contact Christopher McElroy at [cmcelroy@ssc.edu](mailto:cmcelroy@ssc.edu).
- [Click here for more information about South Suburban College Adult Education and see any recent updates.](#)
- Reach out to Christopher McElroy at [cmcelroy@ssc.edu](mailto:cmcelroy@ssc.edu) with any questions. Partners can also connect with Raylynn Stokes, Manager of Adult Education, at [rstokes@ssc.edu](mailto:rstokes@ssc.edu).

#### Moraine Valley Community College (MVCC)

- Spring classes will start on January 24th. ESL has reached capacity for courses and is no longer enrolling new students for this term.
  - Spring classes will be offered in-person, hybrid, and fully remote. Bridge classes and ICAPs programs will continue.
- The Healthcare Bridge and Career Pathways programs are up and running this semester.
- Reach out to Carmela Ochoa at [ochoa@morainevalley.edu](mailto:ochoa@morainevalley.edu) and Meg Dawczak at [dawczakm@morainevalley.edu](mailto:dawczakm@morainevalley.edu) with any questions.

#### Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)

- There haven't been many changes with local IDES offices since our last meeting. Claimants should continue utilizing the call center phone number, 800-244-5631.
- Staff is seeing claimants in-person by appointment only. The Business Service team is re-engaging employers to provide more opportunities for job seekers.
- Reach out to Tina Salgado at [Tina.Salgado@illinois.gov](mailto:Tina.Salgado@illinois.gov) with any questions.

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

- Orientation is held every Wednesday at 10:00 am. All National Able orientations and workshops are posted online at <https://www.nationalable.org/calendar/>

- If there are any questions, reach out to Loretta Coleman at [loleman@nationalable.org](mailto:loleman@nationalable.org).

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

- There is limited activity at the IDHS field offices.
- Effective February 1st, all new SNAP applicants will be required to complete an interview and verify their identity before benefits are issued.
- The work requirements for SNAP participants are waived until the end of June 2022.
- 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)

- DRS is still remote and continues to accept applications online or by leaving a message at the local DRS office. The online application is often processed quicker than phone calls.
- If you'd like to connect with VR counselors for the Chicago Heights area, reach out to Angela Young at [angela.s.young@illinois.gov](mailto:angela.s.young@illinois.gov) and/or Vickie Trice at [vickie.trice@illinois.gov](mailto:vickie.trice@illinois.gov).
- Anita Johnson is the new Supervisor for the Chicago Heights office. She can be contacted at [anita.johnson@illinois.gov](mailto:anita.johnson@illinois.gov).

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

##### National Able Network SCSEP

- SCSEP is open for enrollment. Individuals 55+ can apply to the National Able SCSEP program. Encourage potential participants to call 855.994.8300 or send their information directly to Jackie Owens at [jowens@nationalable.org](mailto:jowens@nationalable.org).
- 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

- Job Corps is actively recruiting students but has put a pause on bringing students onto campus due to the recent COVID surge. The status of in-person learning is changing every week.
  - If you'd like to contact staff about enrollment at the Joliet Job Corps Center, reach out to Saunja Townsend at [townsend.saunja@jobcorps.org](mailto:townsend.saunja@jobcorps.org).
  - If you'd like to contact staff about enrollment at the Paul Simon Job Corps Center, reach out to Brittney Davis at [davis.brittney@jobcorps.org](mailto:davis.brittney@jobcorps.org).

#### 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 Rizzo is hosting a Train the Trainer event on February 9th from 10 am - 2 pm. This is a limited capacity, in-person training. It is a Winners' Circle Facilitator's Training

with 4 Free CEUS. For more information, reach out to Regina at [rrizzo@legalaidchicago.org](mailto:rrizzo@legalaidchicago.org) or Peter Contos at [pcontos10@gmail.com](mailto:pcontos10@gmail.com).

- 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. The South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College Title II partners (Prairie State College, South Suburban College, and Moraine Valley Community College) partner with CAIC to cover costs for manufacturing programs.
- The CAIC 5-Week Manufacturing Training Program, formerly known as the Bridge Training Program, is a Free Manufacturing Skills 80-hour Training Program. This program prepares individuals for college-level programs, jobs, and careers in manufacturing. In-person classes at South Suburban College begin February 2022. [Click here to learn more.](#)
- Reach out to Debbie Newman at [debbie@calumetareaindustrial.com](mailto:debbie@calumetareaindustrial.com) and Meredith Thetford at [meredith@calumetareaindustrial.com](mailto:meredith@calumetareaindustrial.com) with any questions.

#### **Next Steps:**

- Partners can volunteer for the Referral Project Working Group meeting on February 16th from 10:00 am - 11:00 am. Invitations will be sent out soon.
- [Complete the End of Year Survey](#)
- Updated flyers can be submitted to the OSO email address at [oso@chicagocitywideliteracy.org](mailto:oso@chicagocitywideliteracy.org).
- [Sign up to receive the South Suburban Cook County AJC at Prairie State College Resources Newsletter here.](#)