



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

Monthly Partners Meeting  
February 16th, 2023  
10:00 am

### ***In-Person Meeting Attendees:***

Niasa Hollins-Watson, National Able Network; Rosylen McGhee, Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES); and Camilla Benjamin, scaleLIT and Robert Guzman, scaleLIT;

### ***Virtual Meeting Attendees:***

Asia Thompson, Housing Authority of Cook County; Brittney Davis, Paul Simon Job Corps; Christopher McElroy, South Suburban College; Crystal Catlett, Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES); Francesca Snow, Youth Job Center; Georges Sanon, Prairie State College; Jillian Campbell, IDES; Kisha Brown, Prairie State College; Kisha Slaughter, Paul Simon Job Corps; Maria-Diana Gutierrez, South Suburban College; Matt Weis, National Able Network; Matthew Beasland, South Suburban College; Meg Dawczak, Moraine Valley Community College; Melissa Veach, Calumet Area Industrial Commission; Rena Bryson, Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS); Valencia Funches, IDHS; Vicky Garcia, Prairie State College; Ema Mailhot-Beutel, scaleLIT; Megan McGinty, scaleLIT; and Nidia Mejia.

### ***Agenda:***

- Partner Meeting Calendar
- March Systemwide Meeting
- AJC Policies and Procedures Manual Volume 1.0
- Dashboard Discussion: Center-Level Metrics
- On-Site Staff & Lobby Schedule for Q1
- Partner Updates
- Networking Topic: Center-Level Dashboard

### ***OSO Update:***

- OSO shared the new [2023 Partner Meeting Schedule](#), which includes Quarterly Systemwide meetings in March, June, September, and December instead of 10 separate partner meetings in the last month of each quarter.
- Additionally, OSO announced that the first virtual Systemwide Meeting of the year will be held on March 15th at 10:00 a.m.
- The AJC Manual has been finalized. A pdf copy has been emailed to partners along with

the Agenda for this meeting. If additional feedback is required, partners can use the embedded feedback form link at the end of the document.

- OSO provided a brief overview of the engagement and survey dashboards and encouraged partners to provide feedback on which metrics they would like to see on a new Center-level program dashboard.
- Camilla Benjamin shared the Schedule for On-Site Partners who provide direct services and Lobby Time for staff. Camilla requested that partners review and provide feedback on the information.
- [Click here to view the February South Suburban Cook County AJC in Prairie State Resources Newsletter.](#)

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

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

- The center is open to walk-ins Monday through Friday. Adult Education staff are available from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- The center welcomes walk-ins and the resource is available.
- The campus continues to welcome students for in-person classes.
- IDES continues seeing participants by appointment only.

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

National Able Network

- The center is doing well, and there has been an increase in inquiries.
- Recruitment for the ConstructionWorks program is ongoing.
- The Career Activation Grant is currently on hold; funding provides participants with employment barriers a \$250.00 stipend.
- In-person orientation is held on Thursdays at 10:00 am and virtual orientation is on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm. Orientations have been well attended.
- Reach out to April Walton at [awalton@nationalable.org](mailto:awalton@nationalable.org) and Niasa Hollins-Watson at [nhollins-watson@nationalable.org](mailto:nhollins-watson@nationalable.org) with any questions.

Trade Adjustment Act (TAA)

National Able Network

- Staff is working on a Webinar with TAA program updates.
- Orientations are no longer being held, and new petitions are no longer being certified, but services are still provided.
- The Cook County Trade Program has expired as of June 30th. Once each state has run out of funds, the programs will end indefinitely.
- [Click here to download the TAA Advocacy Document](#)
- Contact Daniela Cueva at [dcueva@nationalable.org](mailto:dcueva@nationalable.org) for more information about how to support and advocate.

Veteran's Forward

- Still actively taking new participants and serving veterans in the Chicago area.
- For any veteran-specific services, referrals, etc. contact Michelle Malone via email at [mmalone@nationalable.org](mailto:mmalone@nationalable.org) or phone at (312) 994-4297.

## WIOA Title I-Y

### Youth Job Center (YJC)

- There is an upcoming cohort beginning in March for the Healthcare Training Program. [Click here for more information about Health Care Training Program.](#)
- The Auto Program will begin in a few weeks.
- Contact Francesca Snow at [fsnow@youthjobcenter.org](mailto:fsnow@youthjobcenter.org), or NuDonna Williams at [nwilliams@youthjobcenter.org](mailto:nwilliams@youthjobcenter.org) with questions or to refer youth aged 16-24 for these programs.

### Prairie State College

- Spring classes are currently in session. The second Spring session will begin on Monday.
- Staff members continue to work with students in HSE and ESL classes.
- Prairie State College is looking for volunteer tutors in math and reading. You can send referrals to Kisha Brown at [nbrown1@prairiestate.edu](mailto:nbrown1@prairiestate.edu).
- The Veterans Town Hall will be held on March 24th. [Click here to view the flyer.](#)
- Georges, Coordinator of the Office of Military Student Affairs, is in the office every day and is available to meet with partners or veterans throughout the week. The office stays open until 7:00 pm on Wednesdays and closes at 5:00 pm on all other days.
  - Georges can help students and families who are trying to certify and receive military benefits.
  - A Veterans Job Resource Fair will be held on April 15th. Flyer coming soon
  - Reach out to Georges Sanon, Coordinator of the Office of Military Student Affairs, at [gsanon@prairiestate.edu](mailto:gsanon@prairiestate.edu).

### South Suburban College

- Classes are in full swing. Registration for the second session will begin on April 17th.
- ESL classes are being offered at the Midlothian Library on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. [Click here to view registration dates for upcoming classes.](#)
- South Suburban College will soon be offering a Manufacturing Certification course and a Solar Program.
- A job fair will be held on February 22nd from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room 2350 at the main campus.
- Reach out to Matthew Beasland at [mbeasland@ssc.edu](mailto:mbeasland@ssc.edu) if you have any questions or Christopher McElroy at [cmcelroy@ssc.edu](mailto:cmcelroy@ssc.edu) with questions.
- For tutors for anyone who cannot read, contact David Stephens, Literacy Grant Manager Adult Education, at (708) 596-2000 Ext. 2558.

### Moraine Valley Community College

- Spring ELS is in progress and enrollment is going great. [Click here to see the schedule for ESL Conversation Classes.](#)
- The Burbank School has 50 Venezuelan asylees enrolled in ESL classes.
- While ESL enrollment is strong, HSC enrollment could benefit from more inquiries
- Contact Meg at [dawczakm@morainevalley.edu](mailto:dawczakm@morainevalley.edu) if you have any questions about these special ESL classes.

### Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)

- Participants continue to receive services such as workshops.

- IDES is meeting with claimants by appointment only. This month, over 40 participants have received services.
- Additionally, veterans are receiving assistance in their job search.
- Crystal Catlett is the IDES representative at Prairie State College's South Suburban Cook County AJC. Connect with her via email at [crystal.catlett@illinois.gov](mailto:crystal.catlett@illinois.gov).
- Individuals can call the 1-800-244-5631 number if they are experiencing difficulties with UI claims and can schedule an in-person appointment through the self-service benefits portal.

#### Veterans Program (IDES)

- On March 30th, South Suburban College and Partners will host a Federal Hiring Event.
- Please connect with Jillian Campbell via email at [jilliann.campbell@illinois.gov](mailto:jilliann.campbell@illinois.gov) for more information.

#### Veterans Forward at National Able Network

- Still actively taking new participants and serving veterans in the Chicago area.
- For any veteran-specific services, referrals, etc. contact Michelle Malone via email at [mmalone@nationalable.org](mailto:mmalone@nationalable.org) or phone at (312) 994-4297.

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

- The number of caseworkers on-site has increased.
- Starting March 1st, 2023, COVID SNAP amounts will end and SNAP recipients will have a reduction in their benefits. [Click here for SNAP Reduction Flyer](#).
- All FSCRCs are open for in-person services but phone lines and portals are still live.
- Partners who handle Ukrainian Parolee cases can refer Ukrainian non-citizens to SNAP, Medical, and other cash programs.
- 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.
  - Call Center number: 1-800-843-6154
  - [Click here to visit the ABE \(Application for Benefits Eligibility\) website.](#)
  - [Click here for information about the upcoming Virtual Recruitment Presentations](#)
  - [Click here for information about the increased income standards](#)
- Reach out to Valencia Funches at [valencia.funches@illinois.gov](mailto:valencia.funches@illinois.gov) with questions.

#### Vocational Rehabilitation

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

- The field office will be opening up for in-person services on February 1st. Limited in-person services for current clients who do not have means of telecommunication will be available.
- DRS is planning an upcoming job fair on March 22nd in North Suburban Cook County. [Click here to view the flyer.](#)

- Partners can connect with the field offices via phone or website. They continue to accept referrals online. Services are being offered remotely. [Please encourage residents to visit DHS public page to learn more about DRS services and the application process.](#)
- [Click here for the direct link to make a DRS referral.](#)
- [Click here for the new Disability Benefits101 website.](#)
- Contact Rochelle Chambers-Hyndman at [rochelle.chambers-hyndman@illinois.gov](mailto:rochelle.chambers-hyndman@illinois.gov) or Nicole-McNeal McGee at [nicole-mcneal.mcgee@illinois.gov](mailto:nicole-mcneal.mcgee@illinois.gov) for questions.

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

##### National Able Network SCSEP

- Wendy Harris, [weharris@nationalable.org](mailto:weharris@nationalable.org), SCSEP Career Coach and primary contact for SCSEP. Please reach out to Wendy for direct referrals, questions, or other information.

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

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

- Awardees are eligible to receive scholarships.
- Reach out to Kevan Casson at [KCasson@thehacc.org](mailto:KCasson@thehacc.org) with any questions.

#### Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

##### CEDA

- Contact Lisa Baugh, Regional Manager, at [Lisa.Baugh@cedaorg.net](mailto:Lisa.Baugh@cedaorg.net) for more information.

#### Job Corps

- [The Chicago Center is Hiring! Click here for Upcoming Job Fair Flyer](#)
- Traditional enrollment at Paul Simon Job Corps is ongoing. Enrolling 16-24 who are interested in starting a career.
- Reach out to Justin Greer at [Greer.Justin@jobcorps.org](mailto:Greer.Justin@jobcorps.org) with questions about Paul Simon Job Corps.

#### 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. Funding will end in Fall 2024. [Click here to learn more about the One Workforce Program.](#)
  - CAIC can support students who are going to any of the three Adult Education providers at this AJC - Moraine Valley Community College, South Suburban College, or Prairie State College - and are interested in pursuing a Manufacturing Career Pathway.
  - CAIC can work with other providers, like Jane Addams Resources Corporation (JARC), to cover the cost of any Manufacturing programs.
  - You can also refer high school seniors interested in manufacturing to the interest form on the website.
- Melissa will be representing CAIC at the IDES Resource Fair on January 24th.

- Email Debbie Newman at [debbie@calumetareaindustrial.com](mailto:debbie@calumetareaindustrial.com) or Melissa Veach at [melissa@calumetareaindustrial.com](mailto:melissa@calumetareaindustrial.com) with any questions.

***Next Steps:***

- Submit updated flyers to the OSO email address at [oso@scalelit.org](mailto:oso@scalelit.org).