



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

Monthly Partners Meeting

July 20th, 2023

10:00 am

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

Niasa Hollins-Watson , National Able Network; Jose Tinajero, CAIC; Anna Slater, (IDES); Camilla Benjamin, scaleLIT; Candace Gray, scaleLIT; Robert Guzman , scaleLIT.

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

Angela S Young, Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES); Christopher McElroy, South Suburban College; Crystal Catlett, (IDES); Destanee Williams, Youth Job Center; Francesca Snow, Youth Job Center; Georges Sanon, Prairie State College; Kit White, CCWP; Matt Weis, National Able Network; Meg Dawczak, Moraine Valley College; Melissa Veach, CAIC ; NuDonna Williams, Youth Job Center; Rena Bryson, IDHS; Rosylen McGhee, (IDES); Taryn Giddings, South Suburban College; Tina Salgado, (IDES); Ema Mailhot-Beutel, scaleLIT; and Nidia Mejia, scaleLIT.

### ***Agenda:***

- Airtable Referrals
- Business Services Analysis Meeting
- Quarterly Update
- On-Site Staff & Lobby Schedule for Q3
- Partner Updates
- Networking Topic: Questions for OSO

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

- Airtable Soft Launch is expanding to all Suburban Career Pathways Navigators.
- OSO will begin sending Airtable Logins to partners following Enterprise Upgrade.
- Save the Date for July 27 for a Business Service Inventory & Assessment Analysis. If you are interested in attending please contact the OSO, at [oso@scalelit.org](mailto:oso@scalelit.org).
- The Quarterly Systemwide Update is updated every quarter. [Click here to view the Quarterly Systemwide Update](#)
- 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 July 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 room is available.
- The campus continues to welcome students for in-person classes.
- IDES continues seeing participants by appointment only.
- A new HVAC system was recently installed.
- The ATOC building office space is full - all offices are in use.

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

##### National Able Network

- Upcoming Hiring Events:
  - Career Connector Event September 27th. Flyer to Come
- In-person orientations started back up last week. They will be Thursdays at 1 pm. 30 people registered for today's orientation. National Able is still hosting virtual orientations Tuesdays at 1:00 pm.
- The center is doing well, and there has been an increase in inquiries.
- Recruitment for the ConstructionWorks program is ongoing.
- Reach out to Niasa Hollins-Watson at [nhollins-watson@nationalable.org](mailto:nhollins-watson@nationalable.org) with any questions.

#### WIOA Title I-Y

##### Youth Job Center (YJC)

- Traffic has been heavy through the Center, but continuing to accept walk-ins for interested clients.
- [Click here to learn more about Old Navy Paid Internship Program](#)
- [Click here for more information about YJC Paid Internships and Free Training Programs.](#)
- Continuing to bring in youth for all programs, Continuing to take referrals to keep people moving through programs. [Click here for the general program flyer.](#)
- Destanee Williams is a new Career Advisor located at Chicago Heights Office and at Prairie State College on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays 9 am- 5 pm.
  - There has been a steady flow of interested youth currently co-enrolling with other partners.
  - Reach out to her with referrals or questions at [dwilliams@youthjobcenter.org](mailto:dwilliams@youthjobcenter.org)
- Auto programs and Health programs are in full swing.
  - [Click here for more information about Health Care Training Program.](#)
- 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 to these programs.

#### Prairie State College

- Upcoming Event: Prairie State College is hosting a Certificate Fair on August 3rd. [Click here for more information about the event.](#)

- The Adult Education department will start the Summer semester on May 29th. Summer classes will be 4-week sessions.
- Registration for GED prep and ESL prep classes opens on July 1st. Classes start on August 28th. [Click here for Flyer.](#)
- 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).
- 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.
  - Reach out to Georges Sanon, Coordinator of the Office of Military Student Affairs, at [gsanon@prairiestate.edu](mailto:gsanon@prairiestate.edu).
- Preparing for some new Fall Programs and services specifically for Veterans. Georges will share information when available.

#### South Suburban College

- Currently registering for the Fall semester. Fall classes begin on September 18th and run through December 14th.
- The dates for the next registration are below:
  - August 1st and 3rd
  - August 7th and 9th
  - August 15th and 17th
  - August 21st and Aug. 23th
  - August 29th and Aug. 31st
    - [Click here for ESL Classes Registration Flyer](#)
    - [Click here for HSE Classes Registration Flyer](#)
- Will be hosting classes again at Mid-Lothian in September.
- Cosmetology Program will be starting in the Fall, anyone who is interested in coming to see the Lab is welcome to stop by.
- No IET or ICAPS classes will be held over the summer
- South Suburban College will soon be offering a Manufacturing Certification course and a Solar Program.
- 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

- Upcoming resource fair on August 8th! [Click here for Flyer.](#)
  - All Departments of Moraine Valley College will be represented along with 18 community organizations. Open to Adult Education students and the surrounding community.
- Summer classes run through September 1st, and Fall classes will run from September 18th through December 8th.
- [Click here to see the schedule for ESL Conversation 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)

- There are now daily Illinois Worknet Workshops Mondays through Fridays 3:30-4:30 pm.
- Invites clients to come to the resource room in the AJC on a walk-in basis. IDES staff are here to assist.
- IDES continued to encourage appointments but is beginning to welcome more walk-ins with the recent order from the Governor.
- Jean Mukwaya at [jean.mukwaya@illinois.gov](mailto:jean.mukwaya@illinois.gov) is a new acting Office Manager
- 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.m.catlett@illinois.gov](mailto:crystal.m.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)

- Reginald Whitley will begin hosting employment and job development workshops at Prairie State College. Reach out to him at [reginald.whitley@illinois.gov](mailto:reginald.whitley@illinois.gov) with any questions.
- Jillian Campbell is at Prairie State College Monday through Friday by appointment only.
- There is a State of Illinois job fair on July 27th in Bolingbrook. [Click here for Flyer.](#)
- Upcoming Hiring Event on July 26th. [Click here for Flyer.](#)
  - Asking people to register in advance to prepare for headcount
- Please connect with Jilliann Campbell (DVOP) via email at [jilliann.campbell@illinois.gov](mailto:jilliann.campbell@illinois.gov) for more information.

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

- TANF recipients are no longer exempt from work requirements and must find employment for 20 hours per week to receive benefits.
- Case by case but asylum seekers may be eligible for SNAP and other benefits. FCRC offices have special teams working specifically with migrants and asylum seekers.
- Launched a prisoner pre-release program that offers SNAP to inmates within the IDOC system. The pilot was successful and will be rolling out to other centers. Inmates can apply 5-10 days before their release date and will have SNAP once released.
- There has been an unfortunate rise in scamming with SNAP benefits. Benefits are being taken from hacked EBT Machines. Customers should contact IDHS immediately to get a new card and freeze their old card.
- To prevent skimming, customers are being encouraged to change their pins to safeguard their benefits every month.
- With the winding down of the pandemic, starting this month customers need to submit a redetermination for continuous medical benefits. Applications are being sent out, so customers should confirm that their address is correct in the system.

- The number of caseworkers on-site has increased.
- 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)

- Open for front desk services at all locations and there is a staffer able to assist customers at the front desk. However, most staff are still remote or hybrid so appointments for full services are still required.
- The field office is open for limited in-person services for current clients who do not have means of telecommunication.
- 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

- Paul Simon is currently planning an upcoming Open House event on June 24th.
- 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)

- Upcoming Bridge program August 14th. [Click here for the flyer.](#)
  - Cut off for registration is the week before.
  - Cook County Resident, must complete Math and Ready assessment
  - Participants get all materials including a laptop
- Through the One Workforce Program, CAIC can cover tuition, books, and fees for students pursuing advanced 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.
- Email Jose Tinajero at [jose@calumetareaindustrial.com](mailto:jose@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).