

Grant Opportunities

On the Job Training

The Workforce Board has received a special grant from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to focus efforts on matching long term unemployed individuals to jobs in healthcare and manufacturing through a customized On The Job Training Program. The program will work with key employers in the local area to identify opportunities for trained individuals to gain work experience through a training plan developed through a comprehensive job analysis and clear focus of matching individuals to the right employment. The Workforce Board will be receiving \$200,000 to develop and implement this program. The Workforce Board will hire a professional with experience in developing internships and/or hiring individuals in the private sector in order to successfully market the program and recruit the employers.

Grant funds will expire June 30, 2012 and performance will be measured against expenditures on a quarterly basis.

Healthcare Careers – Skilled Workers, Strong Earnings Program

The Workforce Boards of Metropolitan Chicago have received a grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services to work with community colleges and community based agencies to develop and deliver healthcare bridge programs in nursing, physical therapy, and dental assisting.

The Workforce Boards of Metropolitan Chicago will administer programs supported with \$1,080,000 in competitive Department of Health and Human Services grant funds. The Health Profession Opportunity for TANF Recipients and Other Low Income Individuals grant is designed to provide individuals with the education and training needed for high demand careers in the healthcare sector. The grant is for a one year period with funding for an additional four years contingent on performance.

The healthcare and social services industry is

Advanced IT & Project Management Training

DCEO has made available \$3M in ARRA dislocated worker funds to eligible local areas; the Workforce Board of Northern Cook County received \$325,248. The total grant is to be used for ITA training and related support services.

The Workforce Board developed a plan with the service delivery system to direct the funds to serve 52 dislocated workers who will be pursuing training in advanced IT related programs and project management. In reviewing data, the Board notes that in the last eighteen months over \$990,000 in training funds were directed to these types of training programs and over 15% of the jobs the region are in the information technology field.

The grant expires June 30, 2011 and funds have been awarded to Business and Career Services to recruit and enroll the eligible individuals.

the region's largest industry and based on labor market projections this industry will grow 18% over the next five years. Grant funds will create access to these healthcare careers for TANF and WIA eligible adults and out-of-school youth in the metropolitan Chicago region. Workforce Boards, in partnership with community colleges and community based organizations, will implement bridge programs.

Through the bridge design of contextual instruction TANF recipients and WIA eligible, low income individuals will be prepared for acceptance and entry into customized academic programs that result in industry recognized certificates and degrees needed for healthcare occupations earning an average of \$14.25 to \$33.18 per hour. Program design will further ensure their success through the provision of "wrap around" services that address social, economic and academic barriers.

Through this grant, the Workforce Board will be working with Jewish Vocational Services to deliver a pharmacy tech bridge program to eligible individuals in northern Cook and Kane County.

TANF Funds provide short term work experience for over 1,000 youth.

On June 14, 2010 notice from DCEO was received that TANF Emergency Contingency funds had been approved for delivery of summer work experiences for youth. JVS Chicago was solicited to deliver these services due to their ability to conduct outreach/recruitment throughout the service delivery area. Between July 1 and September 30, 2010; JVS Chicago delivered paid work experiences to 269 individuals, who earned \$370,210 in wages. In August, DCEO requested the assistance of the Workforce Board of Northern Cook County to coordinate TANF EC funded work experiences for up to 100 Chicago resident youth in areas not adequately covered by services in place at the time. With the assistance of TEC Services, 900 youth participated in paid work experiences, earning \$673,605 in wages.

CAEL Employer Advisory Boards and Economic Development Discussions

The Workforce Board has partnered with CAEL (Council for Adult and Experiential Learning) this year to develop both Employer Advisory groups and Economic Development discussions. Relevant economic data sources will be identified that drive employer decisions on learning and staff development, existing plans for business development and expansion. From this CAEL will draw out the challenges facing the area's economy, local business issues and integration of the workforce system into economic development. CAEL will create an inventory of economic development organizations, intermediaries and municipalities within or overlapping with the jurisdiction of the Workforce Board of Northern Cook County.

EMSI (Economic Modeling Software Inc.) Workforce Analysis

This project consists of a nationally recognized team that partners EMSI with Thomas P. Miller and Associates and Regionerate. EMSI specializes in detailed information regarding regional economies for assessment and planning purposes; Thomas P. Miller is a full-service economic and workforce development consulting firm based in Indianapolis; and Regionerate is a Washington D.C.-based consulting service focused on regional collaboration and economic development. EMSI has worked with the Workforce Board over the last several years preparing quarterly state of the workforce reports as well as has done a similar project for two workforce boards in Metro-Chicago.

Workforce Analysis of Targeted Industries Study for Northern Cook County will focus on:

- Supply Analysis: reporting on both the workforce numbers and workforce competencies.
 - Demand Analysis: to identify occupational and workforce needs of the targeted industries, including current and future workforce needs.
 - Training Analysis: with a focus on training and education provider identification.
 - Gap Analysis: to identify gaps in workforce and training opportunities.
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National Retail Federation Training Grant

The Workforce Board is one of ten Boards in the nation given the opportunity to receive a grant from the National Retail Federation to pilot a training program in customer service and sales using the NRF online learning platform, NRF University *wired*. The Workforce Board has partnered with Youth Job Center of Evanston to recruit and train fifteen economically disadvantaged youth in Customer Service Essentials and Selling Essentials courses. Based on the retail industry skill standards, these courses teach learners strategies and skills essential for building strong customer relationships and delivering the best customer service. Each course includes interactive lessons and mini-assessments for skill measurement and is broken down into lessons for ease of use. The two courses are excellent preparatory courses for the NRF National Professional Certifications in Customer Service and Sales.