

BIG SHOULDERS, BIG CHALLENGES: AN UPDATE ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN CHICAGO



Program Descriptions

(Alphabetical by program name)

PROGRAM NAME	ADMINISTRATING AGENCY	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	TARGET POPULATION
1. Added Chance / Alternative Schools Network	Illinois Department of Children and Family Services	Prepares young people for work by providing employment preparation workshops and job placement services.	Youth
2. Adult Basic Education / GED Programs	Illinois Department of Corrections (School District 428)	Provides basic education and GED preparation to inmates.	Inmates
3. Adult Education	Illinois Community College Board	Provides educational services to persons needing to enhance their basic literacy skills, improve English language proficiencies, or prepare for the GED examination.	Adults with less than high school education (Other)
4. Adult Transition Centers	Illinois Department of Corrections	Provides soon-to-be-released inmates with life skills, education, and workforce development opportunities.	Inmates
5. Adult Vocational Education	Illinois Department of Corrections (School District 428)	Provides vocational education to adult inmates.	Inmates
6. After School Matters	Chicago Public Schools	Professionals lead interactive programs that allow teens to explore different careers and develop problem solving skills.	Youth
7. Board Staff and Related Costs	Chicago Workforce Board	Funding for staff salaries, benefits, and related costs.	Non-participant serving
8. Bridge Programs	Chicago Housing Authority	Prepares adults who lack adequate basic skills to enter and succeed in postsecondary education and training. Includes “wrap around” support services (such as assessment and counseling, case management, child care, financial aid, job and college placement assistance, and follow-up).	Chicago Housing Authority residents
9. Career and Technical Education Improvement Grant	Illinois State Board of Education	Provides funding to support activities related to staff development, curriculum materials improvement, and instructional equipment acquisition for Career and Technical Education programs.	Non-participant serving
10. Carl D. Perkins Vocational Act Program	City Colleges of Chicago	Provides funding for activities including curriculum improvement, equipment purchases, special population services, nontraditional employment training, and staff development.	Non-participant serving
11. Carl D. Perkins Vocational Act Program (Education to Careers)	Chicago Public Schools	Promotes career-focused education in different fields, including: finance, communications, construction, health, hospitality, manufacturing, performing arts, and transportation.	Youth
12. CDBG — Family Violence Prevention Program	Chicago Mayor’s Office of Workforce Development	Seeks to improve the target population’s employability and capacity for long-term job retention.	Population varies by contractor (Other)
13. CDBG — Innovative Programs for Underserved Populations	Chicago Mayor’s Office of Workforce Development	Offers employment related services to numerous populations, including: ex-offenders, CHA residents, at risk youth, immigrants, non-custodial parents, and persons with disabilities.	Population varies by contractor (Other)



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14. CDBG — Training and Placement	Chicago Mayor's Office of Workforce Development	Provides customized employment training services to specific populations.	Population varies by contractor (Other)
15. Community-based Substance Abuse Treatment Program	Illinois Department of Corrections	Provides supportive services, including workforce development programs, to parolees with a history of substance use.	Ex-offenders
16. Community-based Transitional Services (Female Offenders Program)	Illinois Department of Corrections	Provides supportive services, including workforce development programs, to female parolees as they re-enter their communities.	Ex-offenders
17. Critical Skills Shortages Initiative Grant	City Colleges of Chicago	Provides job training for individuals interested in occupations facing critical skills shortages.	Population varies by contractor (Other)
18. Critical Skills Shortages Initiative — Healthcare	Chicago Mayor's Office of Workforce Development	Funds job training for low-skilled workers to prepare them for high-demand occupations within the healthcare field.	Low-income adults and older youth (Other)
19. Critical Skills Shortages Initiative — Manufacturing	Chicago Mayor's Office of Workforce Development	Funds job training for existing manufacturing trade workers to acquire additional skills needed to succeed in high-need occupations within the field.	Incumbent manufacturing workers (Other)
20. Customized Employment Grant	Chicago Workforce Board	Planning for a customized employment program to serve individuals with disabilities due to severe mental illness.	Persons with disabilities
21. Day Reporting	Illinois Department of Corrections	Allows parolees to maintain current employment and provides life skills training, job referrals, and educational services to those seeking employment.	Ex-offenders
22. Earnfare	Illinois Department of Human Services	Provides adult Food Stamp recipients the opportunity to gain work experience and earn cash assistance at Earnfare work assignments.	TANF and/or Food Stamp recipients
23. Employer Training Investment Program (ETIP)	Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity	Funds companies to train incumbent workers to help them keep pace with new technologies and business practices.	Employers
24. Food Stamp Employment and Training with Retention	Illinois Department of Human Services	Provides special target populations of Food Stamp recipients with intensive education, job skills training, pre-employment services, and unsubsidized job placement.	TANF and/or Food Stamp recipients
25. Greencorps	Chicago Department of the Environment	A landscaping and horticulture program through which participants receive hands on experience and job placement assistance.	Unemployed Chicagoans (Other)
26. High Technology School-to-Work Program	Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity	Prepares public school students to transition from school to high-skilled, high-wage jobs that require advanced technical training.	Youth
27. Illinois Correctional Industries	Illinois Department of Corrections	Allows inmates to build skills through work experience in service and factory settings, including garment manufacturing, service dog training, eyeglass construction, and food production.	Inmates
28. Illinois Support, Training, and Employment Program (ISTEP)	Illinois Department of Labor	Program empowering displaced homemakers to achieve economic self-sufficiency and independence in a competitive workforce through education, training and employment.	Dislocated Workers
29. Job Corps	U.S. Department of Labor	Provides integrated academic, vocational, and social skills training to help youth gain independence and get quality, long-term jobs or further their education.	Youth



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30. Job Training and Economic Development Program (JTED)	Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity	Community-based providers work in partnership with local businesses to provide training and act as a connection between local employers and low wage/low skill workers.	Unemployed and incumbent workers (Other)
31. Juvenile Vocational Education	Illinois Department of Corrections (School District 428)	Provides vocational education to juvenile inmates.	Inmates
32. KidStart Summer Jobs Program	Chicago Department of Children and Youth Services	Provides part-time, summer job opportunities through a number of collaborating city agencies.	Youth
33. Non-Custodial Parent Earnfare	Illinois Department of Human Services	Provides court ordered, unemployed non-custodial parents receiving TANF the opportunity to gain work experience and earn cash assistance while meeting a portion of their child support obligation.	TANF and/or Food Stamp recipients
34. Parole	Illinois Department of Corrections	Parole officers facilitate the successful reintegration of ex-offenders by providing a myriad of services, including employment referrals and flexible meeting schedules in order to enable parolees to maintain employment.	Ex-offenders
35. Program Improvement Grant	City Colleges of Chicago	Funds used to purchase technical equipment for instructional purposes, develop new curriculum, and for faculty development.	Non-participant serving
36. Refugee Discretionary Grants	Illinois Department of Human Services	Provides employment related, case management services, and vocational training (services vary by contractor).	Refugees
37. Refugee Social Services	Illinois Department of Human Services	Core services include cultural orientation, vocational ESL, job placement, and mental health counseling.	Refugees
38. Refugee Targeted Assistance	Illinois Department of Human Services	Coordinated four agencies to provide employment services.	Refugees
39. Secondary Transitional Experience Program	Chicago Public Schools	Prepares students with disabilities for the transition to employment and community participation during and after high school.	Youth
40. Senior Community Service Employment Program	Illinois Department on Aging / U.S. Department of Labor	Program transitions seniors into unsubsidized jobs, beginning by placing them in community service agencies to work 20 hours per week.	Seniors
41. Service Connector Program	Chicago Department of Human Services	Links CHA residents to community resources that help families gain stability, increase household income, and expand housing options.	Chicago Housing Authority residents
42. Skill Builders	Chicago Mayor's Office of Workforce Development	Provides Chicago residents training and mentoring needed to obtain employment as an apprentice in the construction trades.	Individuals underrepresented in construction trades (Other)
43. TANF Job Placement with Retention	Illinois Department of Human Services	Provides targeted employment services designed to address the needs of TANF recipients with significant employment barriers.	TANF and/or Food Stamp recipients
44. Technical Preparation and Support	City Colleges of Chicago	Funds used to develop 2+2 Program sequences, establish preparatory services, provide in-service training for faculty, ensure equal access for special populations, and create non-traditional programs.	Non-participant serving
45. TIF Works	Chicago Mayor's Office of Workforce Development	Provides businesses in TIF districts with funding to train incumbent workers.	Employers



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46. Title XX Social Services Block Grant	Chicago Mayor's Office of Workforce Development	Funds used to assist ex-offenders in achieving economic self-support. Some funds used for youth development programs.	Ex-offenders/ Youth
47. Transitional Jobs	Chicago Housing Authority	Provides disadvantaged job seekers with time-limited, wage-paying jobs and combines real work, skill development, and supportive services to transition participants successfully into the labor market.	Chicago Housing Authority residents
48. Various Corporate Contracts	Chicago Mayor's Office of Workforce Development	Fund various employment and training initiatives geared to serve multiple disadvantaged populations.	Population varies by contractor (Other)
49. Work Experience and Career Exploration Program	Illinois State Board of Education	School-to-work transition program for students ages 14 and 15 who are at-risk of dropping out of school. Provides work-related class and on-the-job experiences to encourage students to develop a career plan, demonstrate positive work ethic, and remain in school after age of 16.	Youth
50. Work First Program	Illinois Department of Human Services	Pay-after-performance program for TANF recipients, which includes activities such as work experience, community service, vocational training, basic education, job skills, and treatment programs.	TANF and/or Food Stamp recipients
51. Workforce Development Grant (Business and Industry Services)	City Colleges of Chicago	Provides workforce development services to the private sector.	Employers
52. Workforce Investment Act Title IA—Adult	Chicago Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities	Provides core, intensive, and training services to adults through the Chicago Workforce Centers and affiliated sites.	Economically disadvantaged adults (Other)
53. Workforce Investment Act Title ID—Dislocated Worker	Chicago Mayor's Office of Workforce Development	Provides core, intensive, and training services to dislocated workers through the Chicago Workforce Centers and affiliated sites.	Dislocated Workers
54. Workforce Investment Act Title IS—Rapid Response State Reserve	Chicago Mayor's Office of Workforce Development	Provides services to dislocated workers from specifically identified companies with a layoff affecting 50 or more workers.	Dislocated Workers
55. Workforce Investment Act Title IV- Vocational Rehabilitation	Illinois Department of Human Services/ Division of Rehab. Services	Help persons with disabilities find quality employment that pays a living wage and offers a chance for advancement.	Persons with disabilities
56. Workforce Investment Act Title IY—Youth	Chicago Mayor's Office of Workforce Development	Provides youth with activities and supportive services to help them improve their educational, leadership, and decision making skills.	Youth
57. Workplace Skills Enhancement Program	Illinois Secretary of State / Illinois State Library	Provides services to enable employees to enhance their reading, mathematics, or language skills, maintain their employment, and increase their eligibility for promotion.	Employees with less than a 9th grade reading level (Other)
58. Young Offender Reentry Program	Illinois Department of Corrections	Funds supportive services, including workforce development programs, to young offenders in an effort to improve their chances of successful reintegration.	Ex-offenders
59. YouthBuild/Genesis Housing Corporation	U.S. Department of Labor	Empowers teens and young adults by focusing on academic goals while also helping youth to develop job skills by building homes for low-income families.	Youth

