



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **COOK COUNTY WOMEN IN APPRENTICESHIP DAY PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, Despite increases over the last several years, women nationally still make up only 4.4% of apprentices in the construction trades; and

**WHEREAS**, Based on national apprenticeship data from 2023, Hispanic women make up 0.9% of apprentices in the construction industry, Black women make up 0.5%, Asian women make up 0.1%, and American Indian and Alaskan native women make up 0.1%; and

**WHEREAS**, Rising costs of higher education and the resulting student loan debt, 64% of which is held by women, make apprenticeships a vital career pathway to economic stability as apprentices “earn while they learn;” and

**WHEREAS**, Median wages for experienced construction workers in the Chicago-area building trades was \$83,240 as of 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the advancement and well-being of Cook County depends upon its ability to expand opportunities in its workforce that are inclusive of individuals who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality in their chosen fields; and

**WHEREAS**, Registered Apprenticeship programs enable employers to develop and train their future workforce while offering women affordable paths to financial security for themselves and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, Registered Apprenticeship programs are uniquely able to meet the changing demands of the Cook County’s economy and provide a path for all qualified individuals, including women, youth, people of color, justice-involved individuals, and individuals with disabilities, to become apprentices and contribute to Cook County’s industries; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County recognizes that Registered Apprenticeship, a proven and industry-driven training model, is a key strategy to improving job quality, and is committed to increasing access to good-paying, family-sustaining jobs for women through established models like Chicago Women in Trades’ pre-apprenticeship training.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President of the Board, along with the Cook County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 as Women in Apprenticeship Day in Cook County.