



ILLINOIS WORKS Bid Credit Program

August 2024

BCP Newsletter

Chicago Women in Trades



[Chicago Women In Trades](#) is a nonprofit organization that focuses on equipping women who desire a non-traditional career path in the construction trades with the tools needed to succeed. Their mission is “to ensure that all women who want to work with their hands and earn a good living have equal access to information, training, and employment opportunities in the industry.” By providing these key resources, Chicago Women In Trades helps bring equity and inclusion to the talent pipeline of construction trade workers.

Chicago Women In Trades offers three free training program options. These programs are designed to prepare participants to take apprenticeship program entrance exams. The Women Build Illinois Program provides an overview of a variety of construction trades to



explore available career options. Participants are prepared for skilled trade apprenticeships upon completion of this 10-week/280-hour [North America's Building Trades Union](#) (NABTU) accredited Pre-Apprenticeship Program. Chicago Women In Trades has two additional 10-week training programs that take a deeper dive into apprenticeship preparation. Technical Opportunities Program is a 12-week/180-hour program where graduates gain basic construction skills and hands-on training. The Women in Welding Program is 10 weeks/288 hours and includes both OSHA 10 Certification and American Welding Society credentials.

The Chicago Women in Trades has successfully graduated its third cohort from the IL Works Pre-Apprenticeship program which brings the graduate total to 135 since they started the program in 2022. These IL Works Pre-Apprenticeship Graduates are educated, trained, and ready to be hired and enter a DOL Registered Apprenticeship Program.

To request a list of graduates in your area, complete the [Illinois Works Employer Form](#). You can also contact Victor Castillo with Career Services at (312) 636-8871 or ceo.ilwcareerservices@Illinois.gov. Learn more about [Career Services](#) on our website.



Samantha Thomas, Rosa Boccardi and Alicia Martinez.

Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Graduates prepare for the workforce with a mock interview event at the Chicago Women in Trades. Rosa Boccardi of the Bid Credit Program team shown in the center attended this event as an interview to help this cohort of graduates prepare for future employment. The graduates were asked a series of interview questions by invited interviewers from labor associates, public entities, construction contractors and private industries and then provided feedback on their answers, body language and eye contact.

Samantha Thomas, and Alicia Martinez, have both gained the respect and praise of their instructors. Samantha is interested in becoming an electrician so she can give back to her community; her father was an electrician, and she

would be honored to follow in his footsteps. Safety is her top priority for both herself and others. Alicia is also interested in becoming an electrician but also enjoyed carpentry when trying the different trades during the course. She has an amazing support system at home to help her with the unpredictable hours and travel required for the construction world and cannot wait to get her boots on the ground and start working towards her goal of becoming a journey person.

If you are interested in finding out more information about Samantha or Alicia or any of the other thousands of Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Graduates across the state you can request a list of graduates in your area by completing the [Illinois Works Employer Form](#). These graduates are educated, trained and ready to be hired and enter a DOL Registered Apprenticeship Program. For additional information you can also contact Victor Castillo with Career Services at (312) 636-8871 or ceo.ilwcareerservices@illinois.gov or visit the [Career Services webpage](#).

Upcoming Information Webinars

Advantages of the Bid Credit Program for Contractors

August 21, 2024 1:30PM – 3:00 PM [Register](#)
September 18, 2024 1:30PM – 3:00 PM [Register](#)

**Recordings of our past webinars can be found on the Illinois Works [Bid Credit Program Partner Guide](#).*



Learn more about the Bid Credit program

[Illinois Works Bid Credit Program - Illinois Works](#)
[Illinois Works Employer Form \(smartsheet.com\)](#)
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