



ILLINOIS WORKS

Bid Credit Program

June 2024

BCP Newsletter

Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Grantee Regional Meeting



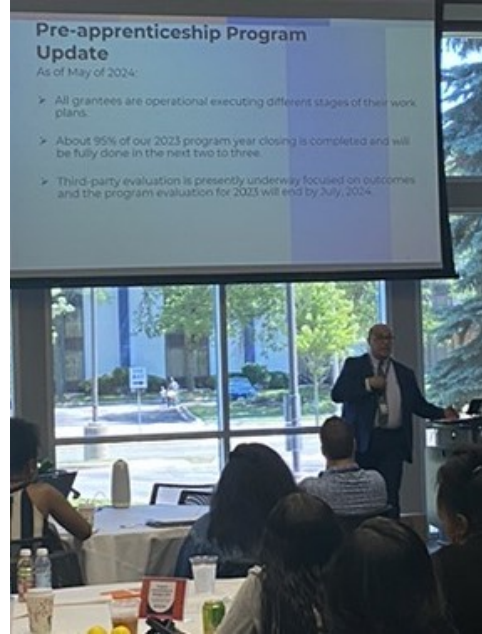
Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Grantees at the Regional Meeting.

Below: Dr. Norman Ruano, Deputy Director of Illinois Works, speaking at the ILW PP Regional meeting.

On May 22, 2024, the entire Illinois Works team met at the Northern Illinois University campus in Naperville to host an all-day training for Pre-Apprenticeship grantees and their staff. This valuable event offered grantees multiple sessions focused on a variety of skill sets to increase the effectiveness of their services to Illinois

community members interested in making a career in construction and the trades.

Some of the most important sessions included “Crowdsourcing: How to Effectively Recruit Program Participants,” “Getting Paid: How to Fulfill the Requirements of the Performance-based Reimbursement Model,” and “Support Services: Creating Participant Support Success.” To end the day, grantees were given comprehensive introductions to the newest Illinois Works Programs, the Bid Credit Program, and Career Services. This event is also strategically designed to give grantees an opportunity to network with each other to develop valuable relationships they can leverage for their programs while building partnerships.



Illinois Works was Present at the April 10th HACIA Membership Meeting



Rebecca Bailey, Senior Bid Credit Program Manager , Illinois Works Bid Credit Program.

Below: Dr. Norman Ruano, Deputy Director of Illinois Works at DCEO.

The Hispanic American Construction Industry Association (HACIA) is a regional membership organization that advocates for equity in construction, connects its members to opportunities, and builds their capacity. For over 40 years, HACIA has been paving a



path of opportunity for minority - and women-owned businesses across the Midwest. By actively working to break down systemic barriers and biases, our aim is to help professionals in the construction industry realize their full potential.

HACIA membership meetings are also key opportunities for members to network amongst each other, create new business relationships, and stay up to date on developments within their fields. Finally, monthly meetings give members the chance to meet invited public and private sector leaders in a closed, intimate setting. Norman gave a review of Illinois Works and how the programs are specifically designed to increase equity within construction and the building trades both by providing needed support and resources to workers and contractors while Rebecca provided an in-depth update on the Bid Credit Program.

Graduate Highlight – Joshua Johnson



Joshua Johnson overcame numerous obstacles on his way to successfully completing the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program at Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) and finding work with a local contractor working on a local sewer project soon after.

Alicia Johnson, a SWIC staff member who works with this program, had previously known Josh through his attendance at the Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville charter school at the East St. Louis Higher Education campus. “Josh was a kind, loving person from a tight-knit family,” Alicia said.

“He was a hard worker who did well in school.”

Once Josh began training in the Illinois Works program, Alicia became his case worker for the delivery of career services. He was able to complete—and even excel—in the classroom and experiential learning opportunities. He did so despite personal challenges. During the course of his training, Josh was needed to help in the care of his sibling’s children and did so without complaint. Later, he experienced difficulty with housing. Still, Josh persisted and graduated with the rest of his cohort in April of 2023.

Program Instructor John Cunningham said Josh’s work ethic and personal sense of responsibility were refreshing. “Josh always did what he was asked to do,” said Cunningham. “He was a pleasure to have in class, and a leader. I knew he had some things going on in his life, but he never used that as an excuse.”

Josh graduated from Madison High School in Madison, Illinois. Prior to his participation in Illinois Works, he had worked as a cable installer and security officer. He hopes one day to start his own construction business.

Josh has been employed with Municipal and Contractor Sealing Products (MCSP) since April as a laborer working on site maintenance both moving and mixing concrete. MCSP Vice-President Dave Steel said Josh has been great, working hard and he has been very happy with his attitude and work ethic. Josh was matched with MCSP through the Career Services team by a job request submitted on the [Illinois Works Employer Form](#).

Upcoming Information Webinars

Advantages of the Bid Credit Program for Contractors

July 17, 2024 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM [Register](#)

Upcoming Instructional Webinars for Contractors Staff:

"Effectively Using the Bid Credit Program"

**This webinar has been cancelled until the rules are finalized.*

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



Bid Credit Events Attended

Rebecca Bailey attended the 2024 Illinois Pipe Trades Association Annual Convention on May 17 to provide a history of Illinois Works with an introduction into our programs and how to navigate them. The Illinois Works innovative workforce development model that creates job demand, provides a talent pipeline and incentives hiring and retention in the construction and building trades. The IPTA represents 19 united associations of local unions which includes 30,000 plumbers, pipe fitters, sprinkler fitters, welders, and HVAC service techs. Together they support their members through creating job

opportunities and expanding training.

Learn more about the Bid Credit program

[Illinois Works Bid Credit Program - Illinois Works](#)

[Illinois Works Employer Form \(smartsheet.com\)](#)

[Governor Pritzker Announces Open Applications for the Illinois Works Bid Credit Program](#)

Quick Links

[DCEO Website](#)
[DCEO Job Openings](#)
[News Releases](#)



Illinois Department of Commerce | 500 East Monroe | Springfield, IL 62701 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!