

SUCCESS

Lake County Workforce Development is a partner of the Job Center of Lake County. Workforce Development receives grants from the US Department of Labor including Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) grants to fund programs designed to cultivate and connect employers and the workforce.

Lake County Workforce Development

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Hiring During

COVID-19

During COVID-19, the Job Center of Lake County closed to the public and continued delivering services and programs to individual and business customers. The Workforce Development Business Service team has stayed busy connecting job seekers and businesses.



Monique was furloughed from her job with a transportation company due to COVID-19, and she knew she didn't want to spend months collecting unemployment insurance but hoped to quickly find another job. She approached the layoff as an opportunity to advance her career. Monique knew where to seek help and contacted the Job Center of Lake County – she had worked with the team in the past and knew they had the right tools and support to help. Monique's resume was forwarded to Fidelitone, a supply chain management firm, classified as an essential employer and operating during the pandemic. Monique interviewed and was hired in April 2020 as a Dispatcher. In her new job, she communicates with drivers, installers and warehouse personnel. Monique describes her work environment as energizing and says that the new position gives her financial security and personal satisfaction.

Employment Opportunities

The Business Service Team, led by Lake County Workforce Development, launched a new page on the Job Center website in March 2020 to feature local job opportunities and essential employers hiring during the coronavirus pandemic. Click on the [Who's Hiring](#) button on the Job Center home page to view our featured job opportunities and to have access to job postings, referral services, and business service assistance.

ConstructionWorks

ConstructionWorks Powered by the Illinois Tollway is an innovative program to create a qualified pipeline of diverse men and women ready to enter careers in the construction industry and apprenticeships. Lake County participates in the program as a part of the Northern Illinois region. Lake County Workforce Development promotes openings in apprenticeship trades programs, assists individuals with skill training to prepare for these programs, and provides support services.

Juan had experience in construction and flooring and was having a difficult time landing a long-term job due to a felony in his background. Juan attended a ConstructionWorks Information Session in March 2019. With the help of his Workforce Development Career Specialist, Juan researched apprenticeship options and applied to the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Apprentice and Training Program. He completed aptitude and qualifying tests, attended a mandatory orientation session and was invited to complete a 10-week, pre-apprenticeship program in Elk Grove Village. Juan had to quit his part-time job to attend this unpaid program, so his Career Specialist arranged for Juan to receive a small stipend while completing the program. This stipend was available through the ConstructionWorks Barrier Reduction fund.

In November 2019, Juan was placed by Tradesmen International, a construction staffing firm, at a solar energy contractor, Sun Peak. The position was to last only one month, but Sun Peak decided to hire Juan directly based upon his performance and the training he received at the Carpenter's Training Center. Juan is completing certification on the job through the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners. He is grateful to Sun Peak for giving him a chance to demonstrate his quality. "I have great satisfaction in my efforts to have a positive impact on the world through solar installation." During the COVID-19 crisis, Juan remained employed, working on a solar project for Sun Peak at DePauw University.



WIOA Training

Workforce Development qualifies individual jobseekers for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) training funds available through the U.S. Department of Labor. The goal is to help unemployed and underemployed individuals gain skills necessary to compete in the current market. WIOA also provides funding for a paid work experience. Participants may be matched with a six-month internship that allows them to add practical experience to their resume.

Debra was laid off from a position as a Vendor Management Analyst for a large insurance company months before her 20th anniversary. She had plenty of experience but worried about landing another job because she lacked a college degree or recent certificates.

Fortunately, an Illinois Department of Employment Security representative referred her to Workforce Development to learn about WIOA funded training. Debra worked with a Career Specialist and researched training that would validate her experience and skills. Debra selected CompTia and Quickbooks training at Computer Training Source, Inc.

While enrolled in training, Debra also enrolled in a paid work experience at the Job Center of Lake County. Debra was able to apply her new training skills as she developed a method to better track and analyze data regarding training applicants. During a hiring event at the Job Center, Debra discussed her new skills and work with a recruiter from Consumers Credit Union. The jobs they had piqued her interest and she applied and was hired as a Customer Contact Representative in February 2020. Debra says that her new employer offers her great benefits with growth opportunity.