

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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First Career

Lake County Workforce Development has a team dedicated to working with young people ages 18 to 24 as they enter the workforce.

“Young people often need additional support as they are launching their careers,” explained Jennifer Everett, Program Manager.

Jasmine graduated from high school in 2017. Like many new graduates, she wanted a great career but was busy with daily life. Within the next two years, she got married, moved to another state, and had a baby. She tried a few semesters of college, but the coursework didn’t fit with her busy schedule. She found her career solution through Workforce Development.

Jasmine worked with Workforce staff to explore occupations and labor market information that matched her interests and strengths. She found that she was most interested in healthcare and finance. She visited several training providers and eventually selected a Medical Information System and Management program to earn industry-recognized credentials.



After completing 9 months of training, Jasmine started a paid internship so that she could gain experience in the healthcare field. The internship, however, was cut short due to COVID-19, so Jasmine once again connected with the services of Workforce Development and the Job Center of Lake County. Workforce staff helped her prepare her resume and coached her about job search. She attended several online job fairs and also completed the “Self-directed 5 Steps to Your Next Job”.

Jasmine researched companies and job openings in her area. She applied, interviewed twice, and was offered the job. Jasmine started her new job as a Receptionist at a periodontist office in July 2020. Her new employer will supply her with additional training in dental coding.

“5 Steps to Your Next Job”

“5 Steps to Your Next Job” is a self-directed learning tool that breaks down career transition into five modules: PREPARE, RESEARCH, DOCUMENT, FIND, and LAND. Job seekers can watch video clips and access documents related to each module online at their leisure. Jasmine’s story is a testimony to the value of both WIOA training and the resources of the Job Center. Visit lakecountyjobcenter.com for additional virtual tools to energize your job search.



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.

In 2019, Bob was laid off after more than 20 years working at a company that manufactures springs. He wanted another job but wanted to get into a field that was “recession proof”. At the time of the layoff, Bob was over 60 years old, but he had no plans to retire. He says that learning new things daily is good for the brain and wants to remain in an active, challenging job for years to come.

Bob attended an Information Session and began reading through career materials at the Job Center. He especially liked the descriptions for HVAC (heating & air conditioning). He began a Maintenance Training program at Chicago Professional Center in April 2019 and completed five months later.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act supplies grant funds for a paid work experience or internship. Often this work experience helps bridge trainees into their desired field. In Bob’s case, he was connected with a work experience at the Waukegan Housing Authority (WHA). He started in November 2019 and was assigned to a team that maintained several apartment sites owned and operated by the Housing Authority. Bob was responsible for the upkeep of over 100 apartments.

In early 2020, a property management company called ACC received the contract to maintain some of the WHA properties. ACC interviewed and eventually hired Bob as the Maintenance Technician responsible for three large sites in Waukegan. He is now earning almost the same amount as at his previous company and receives a comprehensive benefit package.

Bob says that he can see how his previous career prepared him for this new field. He regularly would troubleshoot machines at his old job; now he troubleshoots plumbing and electrical issues. In his previous position, he spoke regularly with vendors and co-workers; now he communicates daily with residents. He advises others in career transition to research how their current skill set can fit into a new field.



Internship with the Workforce Board

Erick worked as an intern for the Lake County Workforce Development Board during the summer of 2020. He graduated from Waukegan High School in 2019 and was finishing his first year at Stanford University when the coronavirus hit. Despite the pandemic, he wanted to get experience in public policy, his field of study, over the summer. The Workforce Board arranged for him to participate in a remote internship attending online board and committee meetings, interviewing staff, and learning how to work with and read through policy. Erick commented that this applied experience was completely different than his school classes and has given him a better vision of his future career.



The Job Center of Lake County is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment by calling TTY 800-526-0844 or 711. To request accommodations, contact dharris@lakecountyil.gov or 847-377-3423.