

SUCCESS

A Second Chance

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

1 N Genesee St
 Waukegan, IL 60085
 847-377-3450
lakecountyjobcenter.com
jobcenter@lakecountyil.gov

Join us on social media



Revive Lake County aims to assist justice-involved individuals with succeeding in the workforce by securing and retaining employment. This 12-session program, offered at the Lake County jail or the Job Center of Lake County, includes training in life skills, career awareness, essential workplace skills and financial independence. The program is a collaboration of diverse stakeholders including Lake County’s Workforce Development, Probation, Sheriff and State’s Attorney with the 19th Judicial Circuit Court, College of Lake County, Prairie State Legal Services and local businesses.



Briscoe graduated from the Revive Lake County program in late 2019 while he was still at the Lake County Jail. Following his release, he visited the Job Center of Lake County to meet with Revive team members. He updated his resume and practiced interviewing. Although he applied for many jobs, Briscoe found that his background was a significant obstacle. He was determined, though, to find employment to support his family. His persistence paid off when he landed a manufacturing job. However, he only worked in that position for five months when he was laid off due to the pandemic.

During the pandemic, Briscoe maintained virtual contact with Revive team members and continued to apply for jobs. He was able to secure

employment a few times, but each job was short-term. In early 2021, Briscoe was contacted by a previous coworker who had recently started his own construction company and was looking for hard-working individuals to join his crew. Briscoe accepted a position with TJ & Sons, a local construction company. He was then able to become a LIUNA Local 152 union member. Briscoe has already worked on several local projects while going through LIUNA certification training. He has earned his scaffolding, flagger, OSHA, and several other construction certifications. Briscoe’s advice for other job seekers is, *“Do not let your background discourage you. Come to the Job Center because they don’t only offer job search assistance but also support and guidance. They are great people to work with!”*



Lake County Workforce Development worked with hundreds of individuals who lost employment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specialized grants for laid-off workers from the U.S. Department of Labor enabled Workforce Development to assist impacted workers with occupational training, skills updates, and guidance during a career transition or job search. Karyn's story illustrates a laid-off worker who maximized training to increase her marketability and land a new job opportunity.

Project Management Training Benefits Job Seeker

Karyn was laid off in March 2021 after 20 years working in the field of information technology (IT) in the areas of software development, testing, product and project management. She wanted to continue working at the executive level in IT but had difficulty finding another job. Karyn felt that obtaining network-related certifications would make her more marketable and increase her career opportunities. She reviewed several different schools before selecting a Project Management Professional training with Microtrain. At the completion of the training, she passed exams to obtain certificates in Green Belt Lean Six Sigma and Scaled Agile Framework.

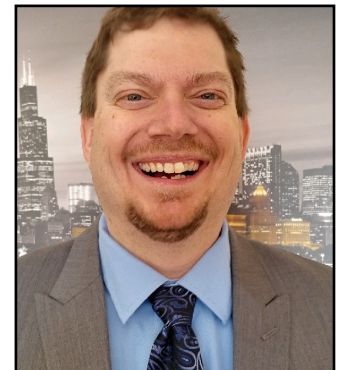


Karyn was hired in August 2021 as a **Senior Program Manager** at Walgreens Boots Alliance. In her new role, she manages a large transition program to help the company move and centralize data on the cloud in order to develop effective analytics and make better business decisions. Karyn says that she would not have been financially able to participate in training while laid off without the funding of Workforce Development. She wants to give back by mentoring others in the field of IT, and she has advice for other job seekers. *"Make a decision on what you want your career and life to look like and stay the course until you get there. The road will not be easy . . . but you've got this!"*

Lake County Workforce Development and the Illinois Department of Employment Security serve on a cross-functional team that responds to layoffs, plant closings and downsizing to deliver rapid services to employers and the impacted workers. The team provides access to information for the impacted workers regarding their unemployment benefits, employment and training programs and job opportunities. This team met Jim during a layoff, and they helped him transition careers.

Transition Into the Legal Field

When Jim's position as a Machine Operator was eliminated during COVID-19, he took the opportunity to explore other career options. A Rapid Response team visited his company during the layoff and shared information about grants to go back to school. Jim decided to pursue training in the legal field. Because **Jim** already had a bachelor's degree, he qualified for the 24 credit-hour Paralegal certificate program at Harper College. Jim completed coursework in legal research and writing, litigation, law office technology and management and specialty areas of the law. He graduated in July 2021.



While completing his coursework, Jim also participated in a Work Experience at the United Way of Lake County. He worked as a Campaign Associate. This fast-paced position allowed him to network with many social service organizations and community leaders in Lake County.

Jim landed a position as a **Legal Assistant** at the Sheehan Firm in October 2021. He supports the lawyers in the firm by keeping track of the court calendar and assisting in legal research and filing documents with the courts. He advises those in career transition to be patient. *"It took me months to land this job because many firms were looking for someone with previous experience . . . Keep applying and interviewing, and eventually you will find the right opportunity for yourself."*

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.