

workNet DuPage

Grant Year in Review

July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025

Lisa Schvach, Executive Director
DuPage County Workforce Development Division





“Investment in the education, training, and career advancement of DuPage County's workforce is crucial to the ability of the county and state to compete in the global economy and to achieve economic equity.”

– Proclamation recognizing the month of September
as Workforce Development Month in DuPage County

The Workforce Development Division of DuPage County

administers the federally-funded employment and training services
authorized through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA.)



Job Seeker Services

- Career plan development
- Job search skills
- Individual Training Accounts ("grants")
- Paid work experience ("internships")

Business Services

- Incumbent Worker Training grants
- Apprenticeship expansion
- Job posting and candidate sourcing
- Industry sector collaboration

PY24 Title 1 Funding Allocation for Job Seekers

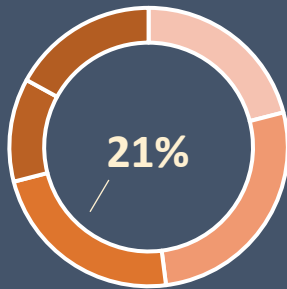
- Adult-- \$1,579,860
- Dislocated Worker-- \$2,152,222
- Youth-- \$1,675,993

Over

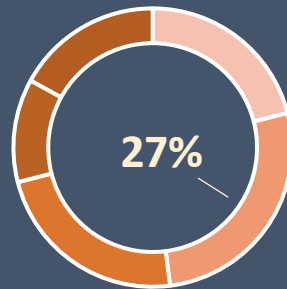
\$2M

in ITAs granted to 303 job seekers
for career training primarily in

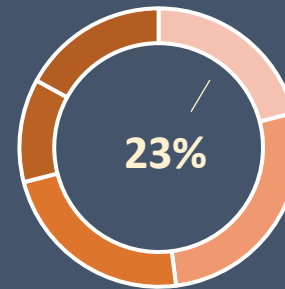
4 key industries:



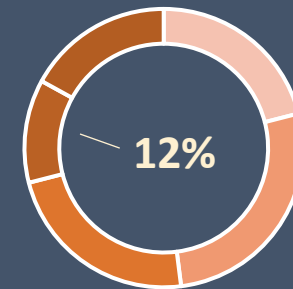
HEALTHCARE



INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY



LOGISTICS &
TRANSPORTATION



MANUFACTURING

WIOA GRANT RECIPIENTS- OUTCOMES



↑ 61%

AVERAGE WAGE GAIN

\$28.13/HR

AVERAGE WAGE AT EXIT

EMPLOYED AT EXIT: 77%

Top participant zip codes :

60188 – Carol Stream

60139 – Glendale Heights

60504 – Aurora

60540 – Naperville

60137 – Glen Ellyn

↑ 167%

increase in WIOA-funded female students in
manufacturing and transportation-related fields



BREAKING BOUNDARIES

In record numbers, women are entering fields that
have been traditionally male-dominated.



INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING GRANTS FOR DUPAGE EMPLOYERS



Over

\$250K



awarded to businesses
in DuPage to upskill their employees and
pave the way for productivity gains,
increased competitiveness,
and employee promotions



“DuPage County seeks workers with in-demand skills to meet the needs of our businesses and communities.”

— Proclamation recognizing the month of September as Workforce Development Month in DuPage County

workNet DuPage provides a range of services and strategies to develop the workforce for **key sectors** of the DuPage County economy:



HEALTHCARE



INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY



LOGISTICS &
TRANSPORTATION



MANUFACTURING



BUILDING THE WORKFORCE,
BOOSTING LOCAL INDUSTRY:
HEALTHCARE

HEALTHCARE SECTOR



95,526 Employed
15% of DuPage's
workforce



Total wages paid
to employees:
\$6.6B



Average
Annual Wage:
\$70,290



Projected job demand:
9,505



Sector with the
highest projected
annual growth in
the County



HEALTHCARE WIOA GRANT RECIPIENTS

“I've finally **broken free** from the cycle of low income and hopelessness, and I now **see a clear path to success** in my nursing career.”

-Our client, **Olga**



62

PARTICIPANTS

OVER

\$415K

IN WIOA TRAINING GRANTS

Sample Trainings:

Registered Nurse

Associate Degree in Nursing

Licensed Practical Nurse

Certified EKG Technician

Certified Phlebotomy Technician

Certified Clinical Medical Assistant

Central Sterile Processing

“ Before being approved for the funding I had to pay close to \$2k a month towards tuition on top of being the head of the household.

I felt that the weight was lifted off my shoulders and I could focus on being a great husband and father to my children on top of the coursework. ”

WORKNET SUCCESS STORY: Relief for a Working Dad

- Oumer was working as a CNA and attending LPN training when he learned about workNet DuPage.
- He qualified for a **WIOA training grant** and is now employed as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).
- This career move has provided him with an increased stable income, more time with family, & improved quality of life.
- workNet helped Oumer achieve his goals by alleviating financial burdens and providing support throughout the process.



Apprenticeships: Superior Ambulance

- Received \$3,200 in **Apprenticeship Expansion funding** to purchase software for tracking their apprentices
- Enhances program management, compliance, and reporting
- Supports long-term growth of healthcare apprenticeship pathways



DUPAGE COUNTY INDUSTRY INSIGHTS SERIES



Developing the Healthcare Workforce

Wednesday, June 18, 2025
at workNet DuPage Career Center

Key Takeaways:

- Talent Shortages in Technical Healthcare Roles
- Education-to-Employment Misalignment
- Retention and Reimbursement Barriers

Proposed Solutions and Actions:

- Expand Apprenticeship and Internship Models
- Greater Flexibility for Working Learners
- Cross-Sector Collaboration
- Career awareness through effective communications tools

Attendees included:

Advocate Health, Northwestern Medicine, Duly Health & Care, Superior Ambulance, Endeavor Health, Easter Seals of DuPage, American Academy of Pediatrics, NAMI DuPage, Conventions Health, DuPage County Health Department, College of DuPage, Parents Alliance Employment Project, DAOES/TCD





BUILDING THE WORKFORCE,
BOOSTING LOCAL INDUSTRY:
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



53,720 Employed/
8.6% of DuPage's
workforce



Total wages paid
to employees:
\$6B



Average
Annual Wage:
\$110K



Projected job demand:
4,470



**Third largest
employment sector
in DuPage County**



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WIOA GRANT RECIPIENTS

“workNet DuPage kept me sane throughout this process by **providing structure and a sense of purpose.**”

-Our client, **Patrick**,
now employed as a Configuration/Deployment Technician



81

PARTICIPANTS

OVER

\$600K

IN WIOA TRAINING GRANTS

Sample Trainings:

Comp TIA Network+, Security+, Cloud+

Agile Project Management

Microsoft Power BI Data Analyst

Microsoft Azure

Project Management Professional

Lean Six Sigma Green Belt

WORKNET SUCCESS STORY: From Jobless to Hopeful



“ I went from being jobless for 11 months to having a job...full-time (not contractor), with a strong company. I’m hoping to work here for many years, and eventually retire from here. ”

- Rick had been unemployed for 11 months before connecting with workNet DuPage.
- He qualified for **WIOA grant funding** for Power BI and SQL training.
- He is now working full-time as a Data Management and Governance Specialist at a major agricultural technology firm with a great starting salary.
- He has already received a promotion.

DOUBLE THE (PAID) WORK EXPERIENCE: WIOA TRAINING + COMPUDOPT



WIOA Success: Gaining Experience in IT

- Twin brothers Lucas and Landon received **WIOA grant funding** to complete their IT Support Specialist Programs.
- They were then matched with Compudopt in Downers Grove for a **WIOA Paid Work Experience**- gaining real-world IT and workplace skills.
- The twins have built confidence, resumes, and momentum for long-term success in the tech field.

Make Your Way (MYWay) YOUNG ADULTS Sessions

This program year, workNet DuPage began a revamped MYWay program for young adults uncertain of their career goals.

Attendees:

- Complete career interest assessments
- Receive a wealth of information on industry trends and local opportunities
- Begin the process of developing their career plans and identifying next steps.
- Have the option of following up with an application for a **WIOA Grant**, connection to a **Paid Work Experience**, informational interviews or job shadowing, etc.



110

Total Attendees (October 2024-August 2025)

TechVoo- a Bloomingdale IT company and long-time partner of workNet DuPage-- hosted MYWay attendees who expressed an interest in the field for an informative tour and Q&A session.





BUILDING THE WORKFORCE,
BOOSTING LOCAL INDUSTRY:
TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS



41,417 Employed/
6.4% of DuPage's
workforce



Total wages paid
to employees:
\$2.7B



Average
Annual Wage:
\$67,487



Projected job demand:
4,324



Second-highest
sector for increase
in employment
over the last 5 years
(**21% increase**)



TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS WIOA GRANT RECIPIENTS

“ **My life has changed.**
Thanks to
this program,
I can now get
back into the
workforce. ”

-Our client, **Sebastian**,
who earned his CDL and is working in cargo transport



71

PARTICIPANTS

OVER

\$440K

IN WIOA TRAINING GRANTS

Sample Trainings:

Certified in Production and
Inventory Management (CPIM)

Certified Professional in
Supply Management (CPSM)

Class A Commercial Driver's License
(CDL-A)

WORKNET SUCCESS STORY: A Pivot to the Open Road



Sherrie in her new 'home-away-from-home' long-haul cab

“The opportunity that workNet DuPage presents through this program is invaluable. ”

- After 32 years working in physically demanding roles in the warehouse industry, Sherrie was laid off. She decided to get her CDL-A to pursue a stable, better-paying position in the trucking industry..
- Sherrie received a **WIOA grant** to attend training and received a job offer from a top-tier employer prior to her graduation.
- Sherrie now works full-time for this company, earning a good salary; she is very satisfied with her work and the life it has provided for her.



BUILDING THE WORKFORCE,
BOOSTING LOCAL INDUSTRY:
MANUFACTURING & SKILLED TRADES



59,517 Employed/
10% of DuPage's
workforce



Total wages
paid to
employees:
\$5.1B



DuPage accounts for
10% of the state's total
number of businesses
and total number
employed in the
Manufacturing Industry



DuPage is the **second
highest** county in the
state for manufacturing
jobs (after Cook)



Second largest
Industry Sector in
DuPage County

MANUFACTURING & SKILLED TRADES



MANUFACTURING & SKILLED TRADES WIOA GRANT RECIPIENTS

“I received information about **how workNet DuPage** and WIOA could help me obtain a **grant for CNC training.**”

-Our client, **Dimitrii**



37

PARTICIPANTS

OVER

\$400K

IN WIOA TRAINING GRANTS

Sample Trainings:

National Institute for Metalworking Skills Certification (NIMS)/CNC Machinist

American Welding Society Certification (AWS)

Manufacturing Skills Standards Certificate (MSSC)

EPA 608 Technician Certification (Environmental Protection Agency Sec 608)

WORKNET SUCCESS STORY:

From Food Delivery to Residential HVAC Technician

- Azat was working as a food delivery driver but needed a more stable, skilled career with long-term earning potential.
- He qualified for **WIOA grant funding** and completed his HVAC technician training in just a few months.
- He secured employment as a HVAC Helper and is now working toward starting his own company.

“

I'm very grateful for workNet DuPage and how they help improve people's lives.

”

The graphic is a vertical rectangle with a red top half and an orange bottom half. At the top left, the 'workNet DuPage americanjobcenter' logo is displayed. The title 'SUCCESS STORY' is in large white letters, with '<snapshot>' in orange below it. On the left, an illustration of a male HVAC technician in an orange jumpsuit and hard hat holds a yellow level and a toolbox. To his right, a white box contains the following text: 'NAME: Azat', 'SERVICES: Funding for Training', and 'NEW JOB: Residential HVAC Technician'. Further right is a white circular logo with three dots. A quote in white text reads: '“MY LIFE HAS CHANGED FOR THE BETTER!” -AZAT'. At the bottom left, the text 'HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?' is written in a script font. At the bottom right, a red banner contains the website 'WORKNETDUPAGE.ORG' in white capital letters.

workNet DuPage
americanjobcenter

SUCCESS STORY

<snapshot>

NAME:
Azat

SERVICES:
Funding for Training

NEW JOB:
Residential HVAC Technician

“MY LIFE HAS CHANGED
FOR THE BETTER!”
-AZAT

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

WORKNETDUPAGE.ORG



INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING (IWT): UPSKILLING THE LOCAL WORKFORCE

IWT grants reimburse DuPage County employers up to \$25,000 of the costs of upskilling their current workforce

OVER

\$180K 

**IN WIOA TRAINING GRANTS
PROVIDED TO THE DUPAGE COUNTY
MANUFACTURING SECTOR**

Sample IWT Trainings

Mold Making

Industrial Maintenance

Powder Metal Press

CNC

Industrial Baking

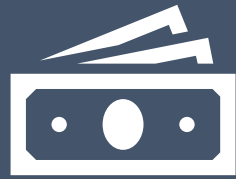
Case Study: Borter Heating & Cooling Invests in Their Team



With support from workNet DuPage and **Incumbent Worker Training (IWT)** funds, Borter Heating & Cooling in Wheaton advanced its team:

OVER

\$20K



Secured in training funds through workNet DuPage



10

Employees completed Lennox
Build-A-Tech Level 2 Training



“

Training is crucial for maintaining the strength of the services we provide, and workNet DuPage has been instrumental in helping us achieve an extraordinary level of expertise among our staff.

We've collaborated with workNet DuPage several times to help mitigate ongoing training costs, and we look forward to continuing this partnership in the future. This has truly been a game-changer for our organization, leading to more confident and skilled technicians, as well as a significant increase in morale and team mentality. Our partnership has led to better outcomes in every facet of our business!

Thank you to the team at workNet DuPage, for your assistance in helping us achieve our goals!

”

Joe Borter
Owner and President
Borter Heating and Air Conditioning
Wheaton



Joe Borter (L), with two members of this team.



March 2025

DUPAGE COUNTY INDUSTRY INSIGHTS SERIES: Developing the Manufacturing Workforce

Key Takeaways:

- Essential to successfully promote careers
- Soft skills and finding younger workers is a shared challenge
- Intentional focus on culture-building and internal workforce development

Proposed Solutions and Actions:

- Plan additional discussion on soft skills and multigenerational differences in the workplace
- Share AI resources and hold AI workshop
- Explore hiring a social media influencer
- Career awareness through effective communications tools

Attendees included:

Abrasive-Form, Antunes, Bales, C. Cretors, Chemring, Chicago Glue and Machine, DuPage Machine Products, Forster Tool, Kenyeri Engineering, Simmons Knife & Saw, Sterling Engineering, Jel-Sert, Toolex, Victor Envelope, IMEC, Technology & Manufacturing Association, College of DuPage, Regional Office of Education, Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce, Symbol Training Institute





CAREER CENTER ACTIVITY

EVENTS & PROGRAMS

OVER



2,200

PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED OUR
MONTHLY EVENTS at workNet



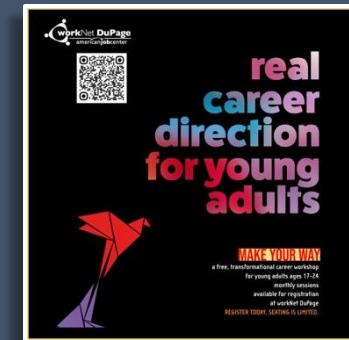
**AI RESUME
REVOLUTION:**
How to use AI in
the job application
process



**FROM LAYOFF
TO LAUNCH:**
Resource for the
recently unemployed
(virtual)



**LET'S TALK JOB
SEARCH:**
Supportive
discussion
group covering all
things job search
related



**MAKE YOUR
WAY:**
Real-world career
direction for
young adults



**SKILL UP
DUPAGE:**
Highlights all job
search resources
available in
DuPage County



**PITCH PERFECT
INTERVIEW
PRACTICE:**
Revolving topics
related to the job
interview



OVER

2,000

One-on-One Career Counselor
Appointments

OVER

6,600

Visitors to the Center

400-500

Visitors averaged monthly

Awesome job as always.

**Staff is exceptionally
patient and kind.**

I'm grateful that you offer so many opportunities to grow .

Mark helped me feel welcome and heard.

**This is a very supportive, positive environment
with empathetic trainers.**

I appreciate the staff members' concern for everyone.



CLIENT FEEDBACK

I'm very grateful for having this resource.

Very appreciative of the events at worknet with varied topics, training, tools and general kindness offered to learn in job searching and hiring practices for the newly/recently unemployed.

**I think the presentations are informative,
and appreciate that they are shared.**

Just keep doing what you are doing.

**Thank you for all the work you do,
as always!**

We're grateful to everyone we've served in PY 2024-25.

We look forward to an even more successful and impactful Program Year in 2025-26.

