

# 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

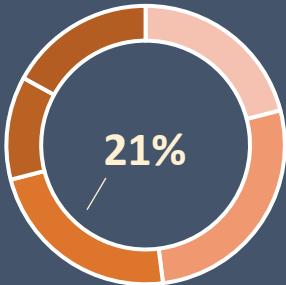
- Adult-- \$1,579,860
- Dislocated Worker-- \$2,152,222
- Youth-- \$1,675,993

Over

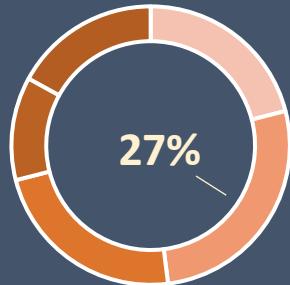
# \$2M

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

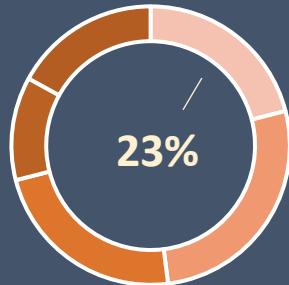
## 4 key industries:



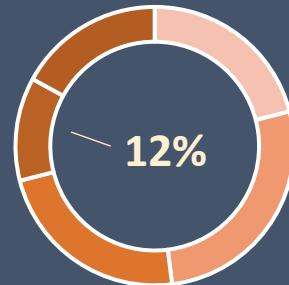
HEALTHCARE



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.

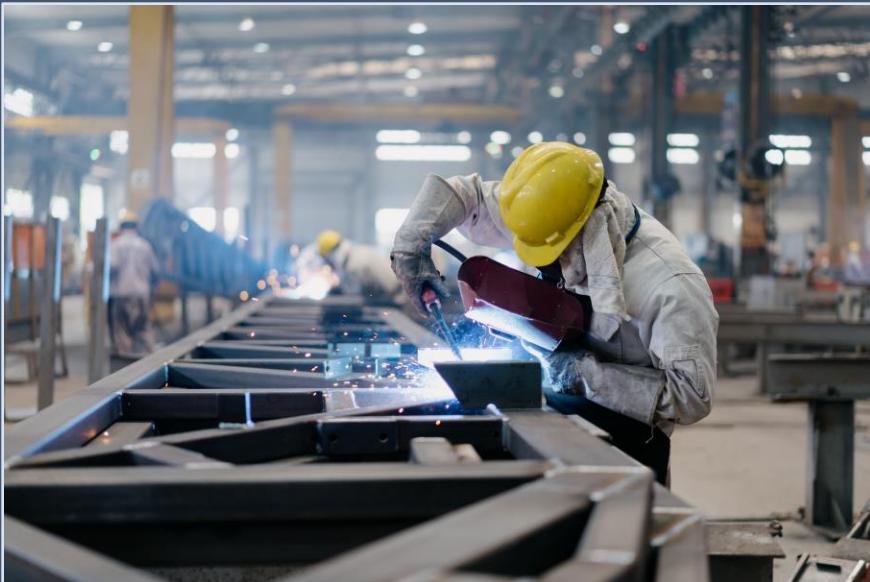


# INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING GRANTS FOR DUPAGE EMPLOYERS



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



OVER **62** PARTICIPANTS  
**\$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



OVER **81** PARTICIPANTS  
\$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



3 people icon **71**  
OVER **71** PARTICIPANTS  
**\$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.

”

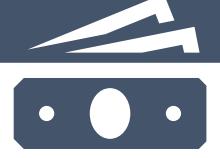




# INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING (IWT): UPSKILLING THE LOCAL WORKFORCE

**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



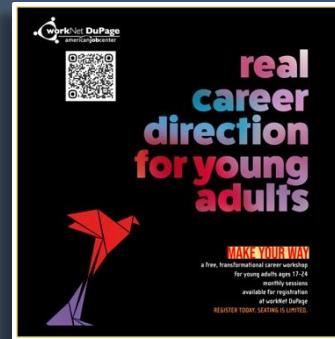
AI RESUME  
REVOLUTION:  
How to use AI in  
the job application  
process



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

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

## Awesome job as always.

Staff is exceptionally patient and kind.

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.

