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# Year in Review

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**DuPage County Workforce Development Division (WDD)**  
Program Year 2025 | *July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026*



## A Message from the Director

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**Despite a year of change and evolving challenges, Program Year 2025 was marked by growth, strong outcomes, and a continued commitment to exceptional service.**

We met every required WIOA benchmark while expanding opportunities for job seekers, employers, and young adults across DuPage County. These results reflect the dedication of our staff, partners, employers, and clients—and our shared commitment to building a strong and responsive local workforce.

**Lisa Schvach**

***Executive Director***

DuPage County Workforce Development Division

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## Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth funding each exceeded the 80% obligation/expenditure benchmark.

### Adult

\$2.03M allocated

\$1.88M obligated / expended

Final utilization

93%



#### Priority populations

- Low-income individuals
- Public assistance recipients
- Basic skills deficient individuals

### Dislocated Worker

\$2.03M allocated

\$1.84M obligated / expended

Final utilization

90%



#### Priority populations

- Workers receiving or exhausting UI
- Individuals laid off from work
- Incumbent workers

### Youth

\$1.46M allocated

\$1.36M obligated / expended

Final utilization

93%

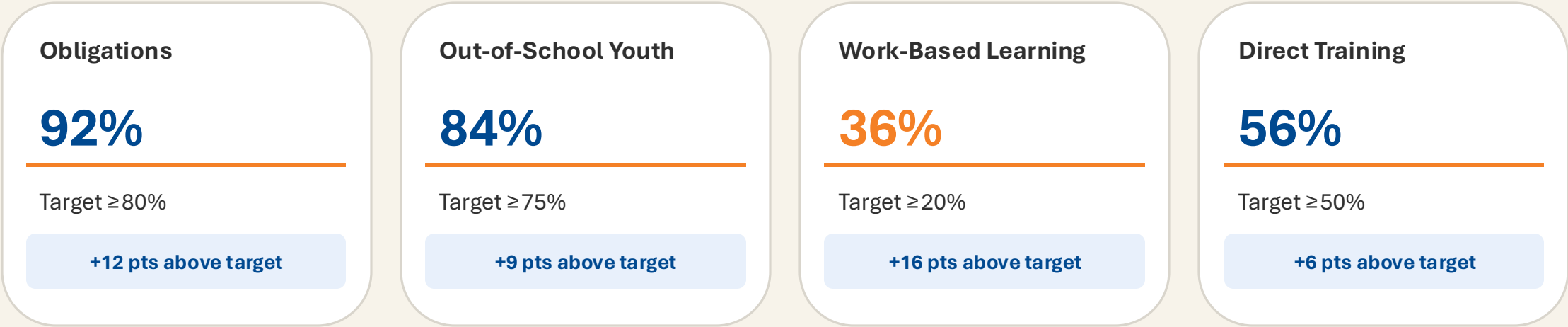


#### Priority populations

- Out-of-school young adults ages 17–24 that were:
  - Low-income eligible and/or
  - Facing a qualifying barrier to employment

# All Required WIOA Benchmarks Met

workNet DuPage exceeded every required expenditure, youth, work-based learning, and direct-training threshold.



These results demonstrate strong stewardship of WIOA funds, effective use of available resources, and continued alignment with program requirements and priorities.

# Job Seeker Services

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Empowering unemployed and underemployed DuPage residents to move toward in-demand careers and greater economic stability.

- Training Services
- Career & Job Search Services
- Work-Based Learning
- Supportive Services



# More residents received career training support

Training remained concentrated in sectors aligned with DuPage County’s workforce and economic needs.

1,449

Career counselor appointments

819

Training vouchers

\$2.2M

Invested in career training

312

New clients Enrolled  
*(128 carryover)*

440

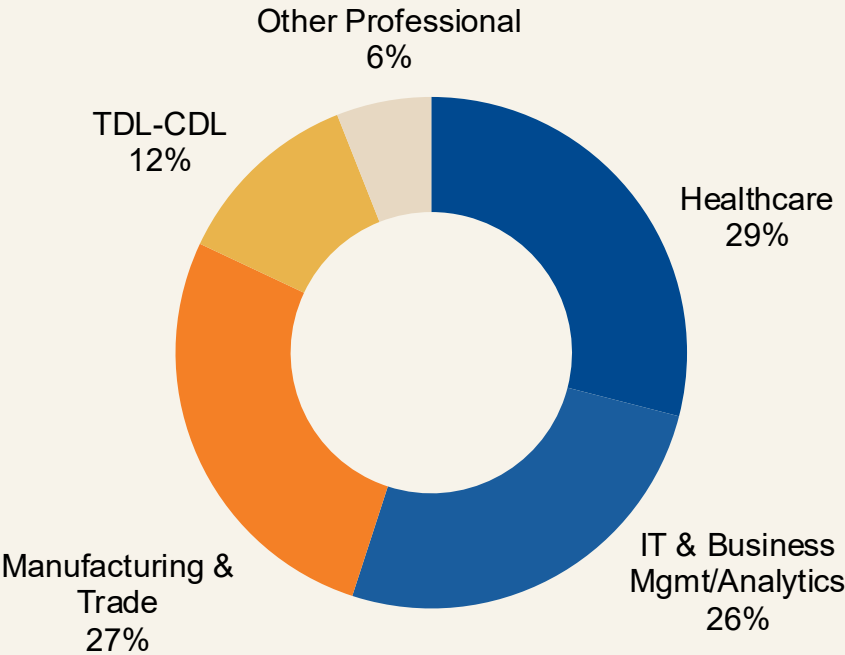
Training services clients

255

Cases closed

Nearly 140 more clients served than in PY24, including a 9% increase in healthcare training.

TRAINING VOUCHERS BY SECTOR



OUTCOMES

# Training translated into credentials and earnings

Performance measures show strong post-exit employment and earnings outcomes.

74%

Credential attainment rate

74%

Employment/education rate,  
Q2 after exit

72.66%

Employment rate,  
Q4 after exit

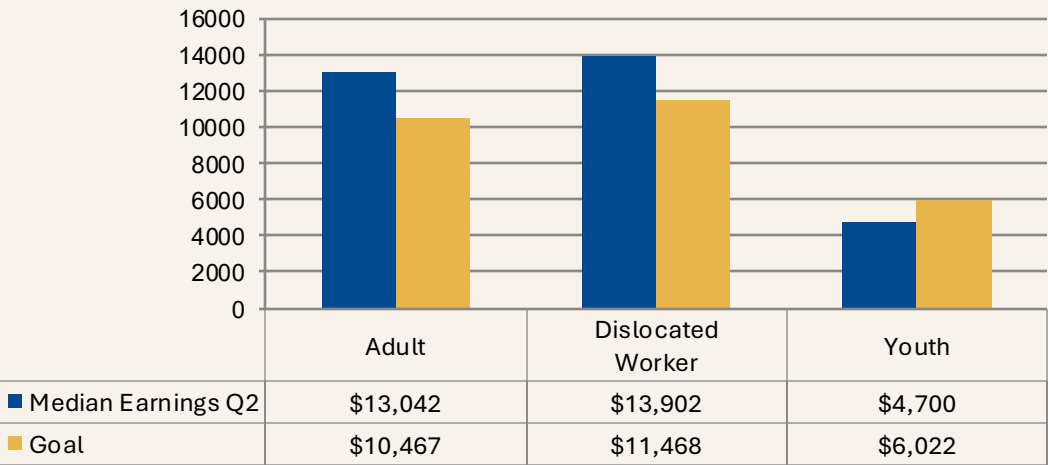
\$29.79

Average wage at exit  
(\$60,000/year)

14/15

Measures met

## Median Q2 Earnings



Clients receiving SNAP benefits saw an average 17% annual wage increase, from \$54,200 to \$63,600.

## Top training sector varied by population

Different WIOA populations used training funds in ways that reflected distinct career pathways and labor-market needs.

Adult clients

**Healthcare**

Dislocated Worker clients

**IT & Business  
Management**

Youth clients

**Manufacturing &  
Healthcare**

### Credentials obtained by entire client pool include:

- Patient Care Tech (PCT)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- Registered Nurse (RN)
- Commercial Driver's License (CDL)
- Computer Numerical Control (CNC)
- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Power BI / Azure / AI-related
- Project Management Professional (PMP)

Credentials Earned

**74%**

Goal ≥74%

**+10 pts above target**

# Public-facing services expanded access to career help

Workshops and self-directed resources gave residents additional entry points.

1,243

Workshop attendees

1,134

Webinar attendees

7,389

Career Center visitors

Revamped programming centered on how to utilize AI in the job search.



# Introducing The Job Seeker Toolbox

A new online resource hub for resumes, interviews, LinkedIn, networking, salary research, and other practical job-search tools—available 24/7 and usable without completing an application.



## STEP 1

### Lay the Foundation

Clarify your strengths, skills, priorities, and career goals before beginning your job search.

#### RESOURCES

Brainstorm Your Accomplishments

WORKSHEET

Toot Your Own Horn

WORKSHEET

Identify Your Transferable Skills

AI CHEAT SHEET

Salary and Company Research

WORKSHEET

Negotiate Your Worth

VIDEO

## STEP 2

### Build Your Resume

Turn your accomplishments, transferable skills, and career priorities into a focused, professional resume.

#### RESOURCES

Resume and Cover Letter Examples

EXAMPLES & TIPS

Build a Stronger Resume with AI

AI CHEAT SHEET

## STEP 4

### Make Connections

Introduce yourself confidently, build professional relationships, and learn about careers and opportunities through networking.

#### RESOURCES

Create the Perfect Introduction

AI CHEAT SHEET

Use Informational Interviews to Explore Careers

GUIDE

Questions to Ask in an Informational Interview

VIDEO

Informational Interview Mistakes to Avoid

VIDEO

Answer "What Do You Do?"

## STEP 5

### Improve LinkedIn

Strengthen your profile so recruiters can find you, understand your value, and connect you with relevant opportunities.

#### RESOURCES

Introduction to LinkedIn

GUIDE

Prepare Your LinkedIn Profile

CHECKLIST

Optimize Your LinkedIn Profile with AI

AI CHEAT SHEET

Top Five LinkedIn Profile Tips

VIDEO

## “The people of DuPage County are lucky to have workNet DuPage.”

Workshop and networking participants described workNet as a practical resource during periods of transition.



“You helped me navigate unemployment, job searches, resumes, interviews, computer algorithms, and stress. Over the last couple of months, I was a frequent visitor to your workshops and networking events... now, *I find myself starting a new professional role that excites me.*”

— Job Search Workshop participant

# Employer Services

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Strengthening the local business community by developing the skilled workforce needed in the key sectors of our economy.

- Incumbent Worker Training grants
- Paid Work Experience  
(*"no-cost temporary workers"*)
- Workforce solutions  
(*e.g. Apprenticeship development*)



# A record-setting year for employer upskilling

IWT grants helped DuPage employers strengthen internal talent pipelines across eight sectors.

\$542,669

Awarded to DuPage County employers

33

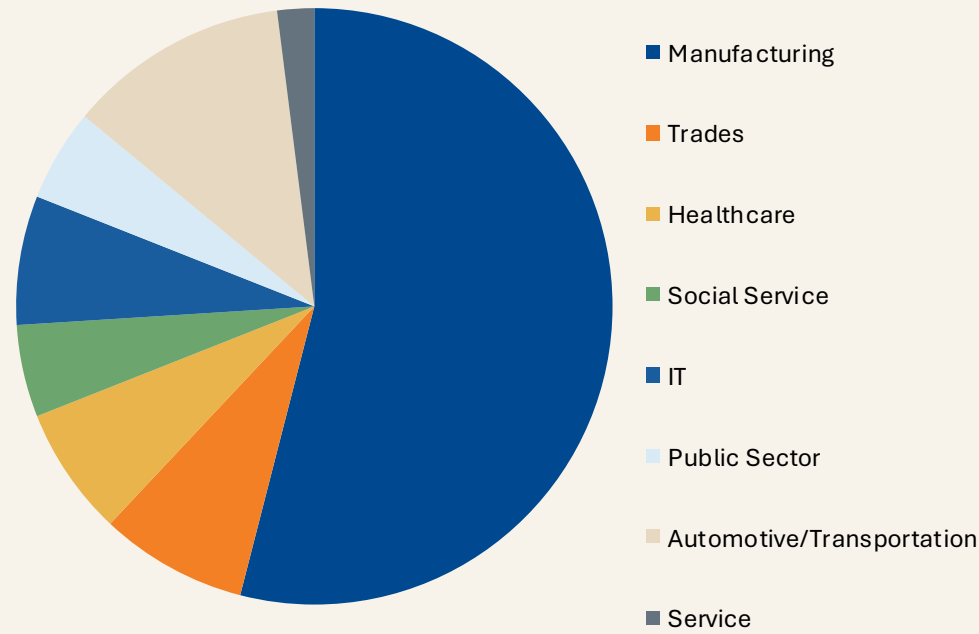
Employer grants

352

Employees upskilled

8

Industry sectors



The first childcare IWT grant was awarded during the program year.

## LONG-TERM SUCCESS



Chicago Glue & Machine was the second IWT project established in DuPage County in 2006. Twenty years later, leadership reports the benefits remain visible in company-wide practices.

# Work experience created pathways into the workplace

Paid Work Experience and Transitional Jobs connected clients with real roles, employer partners, and practical skill-building.

## PAID WORK EXPERIENCE

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**6** Employer partners

**7** Youth clients  
*(3 with documented disabilities)*

**\$78,792** PWE expenditures

### Roles included:

- IT Support Associate
- Administrative Intern
- Records Clerk
- Fingerprint Technician
- Warehouse/Lab Assistant (2)
- Clerical Assistant

## TRANSITIONAL JOBS

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**2** Employer partners

**4** Transitional Jobs clients

**\$25,940** Transitional Jobs expenditures

A new program offering time-limited, subsidized work experience for individuals facing barriers to employment.

Through a partnership with Probation, we assisted 4 justice system involved clients transition back into the local workforce.

# Apprenticeships offered another workforce solution

Apprenticeship Expansion funding helped local employers explore, develop, and expand Registered Apprenticeship programs.

\$117,727

Apprenticeship  
Expansion grant

25

Local employers  
supported

6

Events &  
webinars

4 programs launched or in development

3

local manufacturing  
employers

1

local school  
district

“ I am honored to participate in the  
Paraprofessional Apprenticeship Program.  
Through this partnership, I am working  
toward earning my Master’s in Education.”

**Bozena Manko**

Marquardt School District 15

## Regional Impact

Incentive funding also supported apprenticeship expansion with a major autobody employer across the region.

# Young adults created workforce stories across the county

State Supplemental Workforce funds supported a digital marketing and communications internship model that connected young adults with real projects, employer storytelling, and career-building experience.

6

Interns acquired workplace skills

7

Local employers featured

6

Social impressions across 5 platforms

381,642+

Additional young adults funded for training

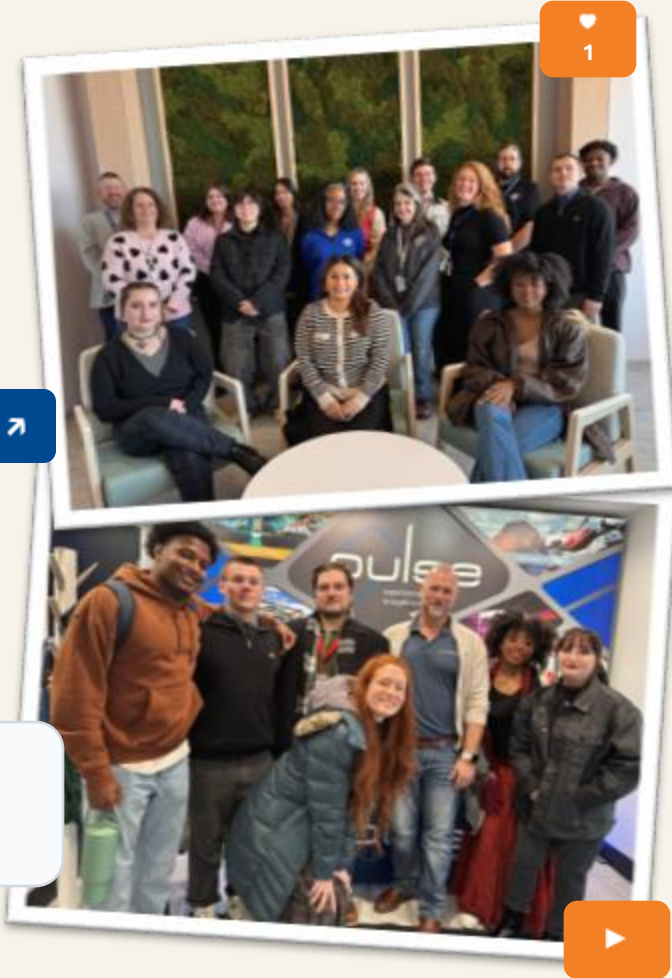


## Content created across 7 employer sites

Pulse Studio, Crisis Recovery Center, Superior Ambulance, AERO Fest at DuPage Airport, Dreisilker Electric Motors, Sentinel Technologies, and Antunes.

### Youth + Media Impact

Interns created workforce-focused content, strengthened communication and workplace skills, and helped showcase local employers across DuPage County.



# Workforce leadership connected local and regional initiatives

Engagement extended beyond direct service delivery into economic development, education, and regional workforce strategy.

**STRATEGIC ROLE: Connecting systems so career pathways match local labor-market needs.**

## Engagement with Economic Development

- Choose DuPage Board Member – Workforce Committee
- Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation Board Member
- Naperville Workforce & Economic Development Coalition

## DuPage Post-Secondary Success Coalition

- Founding member alongside Technology Center of DuPage/DAOES and Regional Office of Education
- Presentation on the current occupational landscape—DAOES, District 88, District 205
- Participation in career pathway work in multiple districts including District 87 and District 205

## Workforce Partners of Metro Chicago

- Regional counterparts in Chicago/Cook, Lake, McHenry, Kane/Kendall/DeKalb, Will, Kankakee/Grundy/Livingston
  - Regional workforce initiatives and advocacy
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# Priorities for Program Year 2026

PY26 priorities position workNet DuPage to scale employer-connected services, remove practical barriers, and support a smooth transition to new statewide systems.

PY26 Allocation

\$5.65M

\$2.14M

Adult

\$1.68M

Dislocated  
Worker

\$1.82M

Youth

01

Expand Work-Based Learning

Create more work-based learning opportunities for job seekers and employers.

02

Strengthen WIOA Youth Partnerships

Build broader youth partnerships and deepen youth programming.

03

Broaden Supportive Services

Expand housing, transportation, and childcare supports to reduce participation barriers.

04

Adapt Internal Processes

Prepare staff and workflows for the new statewide case management system.