



*Geared Toward The Future*

NORTHWEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

**WORKS**

Spring 2021

The Workforce Board covering Bureau, Carroll, Jo Daviess, LaSalle, Lee,  
Ogle, Putnam, and Whiteside Counties.

## Celebrating our Spring 2021 Graduates!



### **Illinois Valley Community College:**

Guadalupe: HVAC, Walter: Advanced Auto Tech, Theodore: Heavy Equipment Maintenance Tech.,  
Guillermina: AAS RN, Christy-Anne: AAS RN, Noemi: AAS RN, Krystal: AAS RN, Corinna: AAS  
Dental Hygienist, James: Production Welding Certificate, Mercedes: AAS RN, Alliah: AAS Dental Hygienist, Rachel: AAS RN, Sydney:  
AAS RN, Gregory: CDL, Scott: CDL, Christopher: HVAC

### **Lincoln College:**

Aurora: Bachelors in Organizational Leadership

### **Sauk Valley Community College:**

Rafa: Welding Certification, Andrew: Welding Certification, Stephanie: Radiology Tech

### **CNAs That Completed through Castor Health Institute:**

Cheyenne, Kaitlyn, Alexis, Kylie, Carrie, Molly, Alex, Roquelle, Julia, and Tyler

### **Midwest Technical Institute (Moline):**

Morgan: Certified Medical Assistant, Christa: Certified Medical Assistant, Hector: HVAC

### **Carl Sandburg College:**

Stacie: Dental Hygienist

### **Truck Drivers that Completed Their CDL at 160 Driving Academy in Freeport:**

Terry, Ben, Dalton, Matt, Ross

### **Truck Drivers that Completed Their CDL at 160 Driving Academy in Moline:**

Lewis, and Christian



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Oglesby, IL 61348

815-224-0375 (Phone)  
815-223-1385 (Fax)  
[www.nciworks.org](http://www.nciworks.org)



@NCIWorks

### **Also in This Issue:**

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  - Virtual Job Fair 101
  - Unemployment Rate as of
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# TRI-COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES COUNCIL

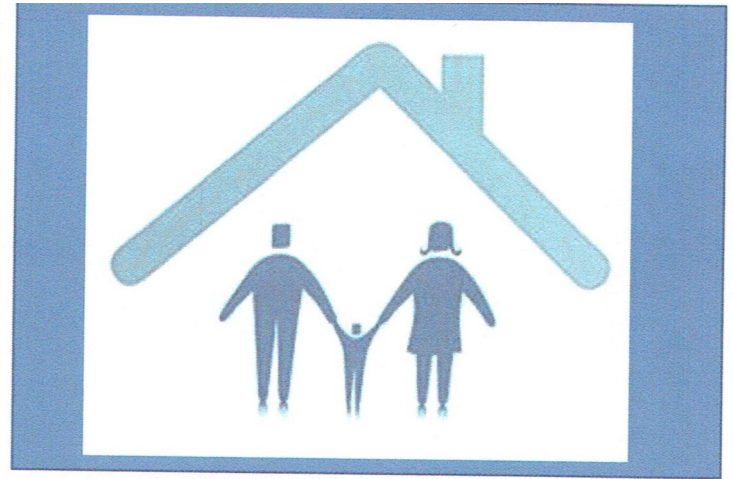
## COVID HOUSING PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

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Are you currently in rental arrears due to the loss of income as the result to COVID-19: loss of income, laid off, hours reduced, furloughed?

We may be able to help!

Eligible households may receive financial assistance towards their rent arrears payable directly to their landlord.



Bureau/Putnam County Out-reach Worker:  
(815)875-6064 or (815)71-82087

### 80% Area Median Income (Yearly Income)

County	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bureau	\$40,250	\$46,000	\$51,750	\$57,500	\$62,100	\$66,700	\$71,300	\$75,900
Putnam	\$45,550	\$52,050	\$58,550	\$65,050	\$70,300	\$75,500	\$80,700	\$85,900

If you are income eligible based on the guidelines above) contact an Outreach Worker to make an appointment for assistance.

[www.tcochelps.org](http://www.tcochelps.org)

*Building Opportunities to Transform Communities.*

## ***Ottawa Chamber of Commerce and BEST, Inc. Partner for Drive-Thru Job Fair in a Bag!***

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, the City of Ottawa, and the businesses of Ottawa that participated in our recent Job Fair in a Bag drive thru job fair. Partnering with the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce made the event a huge success and the City of Ottawa made location at the south end of the Jordan Block easily accessible to those job seekers that turned out on May 27th. A total of 138 job seekers took packets or a generic application to return. The chamber also had another 17 requests for electronic versions of the packets. This gives a total of 155 job seeker served! The event included 34 area businesses, 101 different job descriptions, and over 350 openings. Thank you specifically to Jeff Hetrick, Director of the Ottawa Chamber, for asking us to partner with him in this effort. We looking forward to working with Jeff in the future.



NCI Works meets at 12:00 p.m. on the 1st Tuesday of the following months. Due to COVID-19 we are currently meeting electronically during the following months:

January	July
March	September
May	November

***Meetings are open to the public.***

(Dates & Locations are subject to change. Please consult the NCI Works website, [www.nciworks.org](http://www.nciworks.org), for meeting information)

*Northwest Central Illinois Works (NCI Works) is a locally appointed workforce board that oversees workforce development programs that are funded by millions of federal tax dollars for an eight-county area (Bureau, Carroll, Jo Daviess, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, Putnam and Whiteside Counties).*

# GETTING TO WORK

**Getting To Work**  
**A Podcast of NCI Works**  
**[www.nciworks.org](http://www.nciworks.org)**

Getting to Work Can also be Found at:



Apple Link: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/getting-to-work/id1423132481?mt=2>

Google Link:

[https://playmusic.app.goo.gl/?ibi=com.google.PlayMusic&isi=691797987&ius=googleplaymusic&apn=com.google.android.music&link=https://play.google.com/music/m/Igmfuzfi6eos7fcwdul543lf334?t%3DGetting\\_To\\_Work%26pcampaignid%3DMKT-na-all-co-pr-mu-pod-16](https://playmusic.app.goo.gl/?ibi=com.google.PlayMusic&isi=691797987&ius=googleplaymusic&apn=com.google.android.music&link=https://play.google.com/music/m/Igmfuzfi6eos7fcwdul543lf334?t%3DGetting_To_Work%26pcampaignid%3DMKT-na-all-co-pr-mu-pod-16)

**For more information on this initiative please contact**  
**Dianna Schuler at [dianna\\_schuler@best-inc.org](mailto:dianna_schuler@best-inc.org) or**  
**call at 815-640-9406**

## *Regional Economic Development Area 5 into It's 12th Month of Apprenticeship Expansion Grant: This is What We've Accomplish Thus Far!*

In July 2020 BEST, Inc. was awarded \$123,216.00 as part of the State of Illinois' Apprenticeship Expansion effort to provide outreach to the companies of the 2 workforce areas (LWIA 4 and LWIA 13) within Regional Economic Development Area #5 (Jo Daviess, Carroll, Whiteside, Lee, LaSalle, Putnam, Bureau, Henry, Rock Island and Mercer Counties). Over these last 11+ months efforts by the Regional Apprenticeship Navigator, Nikelle Tellier, have resulted in: 6 virtual outreach sector events being held, 138 individuals from area companies contact either through the group events or individually via partner referrals, 16 apprentices trained through Title 1 WIOA Incumbent Training Funds with the possibility of an additional 2 more currently in the pipeline, the connecting of a potential registered high school program with interested businesses, and staff are eagerly awaiting the signing of their first newly established program in the agriculture sector. Efforts will continue under the current grant through December 31, 2021.

A second round of grant applications is being anticipated with BEST already planning to gather partnering entities to brainstorm the next grant application. In addition to applying for a second navigator grant, BEST has also been encouraged to apply to become an intermediary. Intermediaries serve as sponsors of registered apprenticeship programs. BEST is considering applying for this opportunity and would like to focus on expanding registered high school programs with the 10 county region. Updates will be made available as this second round of funding unfolds.

## Apprenticeship ILLINOIS.com

For Additional Information On Apprenticeships Contact:

Nikelle Tellier  
815-200-3196

[Nikelle\\_tellier@best-inc.org](mailto:Nikelle_tellier@best-inc.org)

Dianna Schuler  
815-460-9406  
[dianna\\_schuler@best-inc.org](mailto:dianna_schuler@best-inc.org)

### Benefits Of An Apprenticeship Program

- Build a pipeline of skilled workers
- Gain workers with customized skills
- Boost retention – 91% rate in Illinois
  - Save money on wages
- Make a positive return on investment - \$1.40 for \$1 spent
- May be eligible for new Apprenticeship Education Tax Credit  
\$3500 educational credit + \$1500 in underserved areas

**Why Apprenticeships?**

- 94%** of employers recommend apprenticeship to other employers. *Urban Institute*
- 1.47** back in productivity for every \$1 spent on apprenticeships. *U.S. DOL*
- 150,000** Apprenticeship programs in the United States. Over 400K apprentices across 1000 occupations in diverse industries.
- \$300,000** LIFETIME EARNING ADVANTAGE. Apprentice graduates earn more over their lifetime compared to peers who don't.
- 94%** of apprentices retain employment after apprenticeship completion.
- \$70K** Average starting salary after completing an apprenticeship program.

**Apprenticeship ILLINOIS.com**

Find out how Apprenticeship Illinois can help you create an Apprenticeship Program for your business today!

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is an American labor market research organization. It is part of the U.S. Department of Labor. It provides labor market research, statistics, and information on the labor market. It is the largest source of labor market information in the United States. It is the largest source of labor market information in the United States. It is the largest source of labor market information in the United States.

## Virtual Job Fair's 101

It is a virtual world and **Illinois workNet** wants to help area businesses hire in a free virtual setting. This free resource will allow employers to explore a virtual job fair and the resources and opportunities to easily set up your own virtual job fair. **Illinois workNet** Center Staff and partners offer programs to attract and place qualified candidates on an online forum to help with recruiting and hiring. This will put business in touch with a much larger pool of job seekers. To find out more go to: [www.illinoisworknet.com](http://www.illinoisworknet.com) This is an easy self-guided format that you can navigate with ease and at your own pace.

Take a few minutes to look at the portal to see if you think this may be beneficial to your business. If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact **BEST, Inc.** who can help you with the set up. Please contact Tammy at **815-625-9648 X104** for additional assistance.

## Update from Sauk Valley Community College Adult Education

The Adult Education program at Sauk Valley Community College served 128 students for the FY 21 school year. 30 students have completed their GED this year.

SVCC adult education classes will end on Thursday, June 24th. The FY 22 school year will begin on Tuesday, August 24th. We are planning to hold GED classes at various times at Sauk Valley Community College. ESL classes will be held at various locations in Dixon and Sterling.

Adult learners who are interested in GED or ESL classes can contact our office at 815-835-6310 for more information.

***Access to services provided by each of the member***

***agencies is contact:***

**NCI Works One-Stop Center  
1550 First Avenue  
Ottawa, IL  
815-434-3111**

**BEST, Inc.  
2605 Woodlawn Rd.  
Sterling, IL 61081  
815-625-9648  
TTY: 800-526-0844**

### **April 2021 Unemployment Rate**

#### **Most Recent Available:**

**National 6.1%**  
**State of IL 7.1%**  
**LWIA 4 5.25%**  
**Bureau Co 5.1%**  
**Carroll Co. 4.5%**  
**Jo Daviess Co. 4.8%**  
**LaSalle Co 6.4%**  
**Lee Co 4.6%**  
**Ogle Co 6.2%**  
**Putnam Co 5.4%**  
**Whiteside Co. 5.0%**

*Wondering what the NCI Works partners can do for your business? Our matrix of business services is available online at [www.nciworks.org](http://www.nciworks.org).*

***“Labor Market Demographics are a necessity for those of us involved in Economic Development. We use this information when responding to “requests for information” such as: state site searches, industrial broker inquiries, retail leads, grants, etc. Companies deciding where to locate need to know if our area has the workforce to staff their needs. Though you would think all would seek the same information, this is not the case. Even more important is having the staff at BEST available to help us find the information needed. All of this allows us to continue to attract new business into the area.”***

***Dave Noble, Director of Community Development, City of Ottawa***

Additional Labor Market Information is available at the NCI Works website at [www.nciworks.org](http://www.nciworks.org) and BEST, Inc website at [www.best-inc.org](http://www.best-inc.org)

Labor Force Data	UI % Current Month (April, 2021)
Employment	119,232
Average Annual Wage	\$45,600
Percentage Change Over 2019 4th Quarter	-6.2%
Unemployment Rate: April 2021	5.25%
Industry	4th Quarter 2020
Ag, Fishing, Forestry/Hunting	4,524
Mining/Quarrying/Oil/Gas	777
Utilities	1,677
Construction	5,934
Manufacturing	18,697
Wholesale Trade	4,756
Retail Trade	13,522
Transportation/Warehousing	8,228
Information	879
Finance/Insurance	3,461
Real Estate/Rental and Leasing	1,293
Professional Science/Technical	3,262
Management	344
Administrative Support	4,733
Educational	10,015
Health Care/Social Assistance	13,976
Arts/Entertainment/Recreation	1,240
Accommodation/Food Service	8,809
Other Services	5,634
Public Administration	7,468
Unclassified	2
<b>Total All Industries</b>	<b>119,232</b>
LWIA 4 Industry Employment Data/Source: Jobseq (2020Q4)	