



Geared Toward The Future

NORTHWEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

WORKS

Fall 2021

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

Partner Agencies Release Requests for Proposals

One-Stop Operator: Tri-County Opportunities Council has released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an One-Stop Operator on behalf of NCI Works. Issued by: Northwest Central Illinois (NCI) Works-The Workforce Development Board for Bureau, Carroll, Jo Davies, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, Putnam and Whiteside Counties.

For: One Stop Operator for Local Workforce Investment Area 4

Funding is provided through the local funding of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The downloadable request can be found at (copy and past link below):

<https://tcochelps.org/2022/01/07/request-for-proposal/>

If you have difficulty downloading the proposal, or have any questions regarding the proposal, please contact Vanessa Hoffeditz by email at: vhoffeditz@tcochelps.org with RFP Area 4 in the subject line. The final date for written questions to be submitted is: January 21, 2022.

Funding for Youth Programs Under WIOA: The Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. is soliciting Request for Proposals (RFP) for projects under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth funds for Program Year '22 (by July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023). A copy of the RFP can be obtained by either requesting a copy through email (joann_johnson@best-inc.org) by telephone (815-224-0375). The RFP is also posted with fillable forms to the following websites: best-inc.org or nciworks.org



815 N Orlando Smith Ave
Room C328
Oglesby, IL 61348

815-224-0375 (Phone)
815-223-1385 (Fax)
www.nciworks.org



@NCIWorks

Also in This Issue:

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- Most Recent Unemployment Rates
- Most Recent Employment by Industry

TRI-COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES COUNCIL

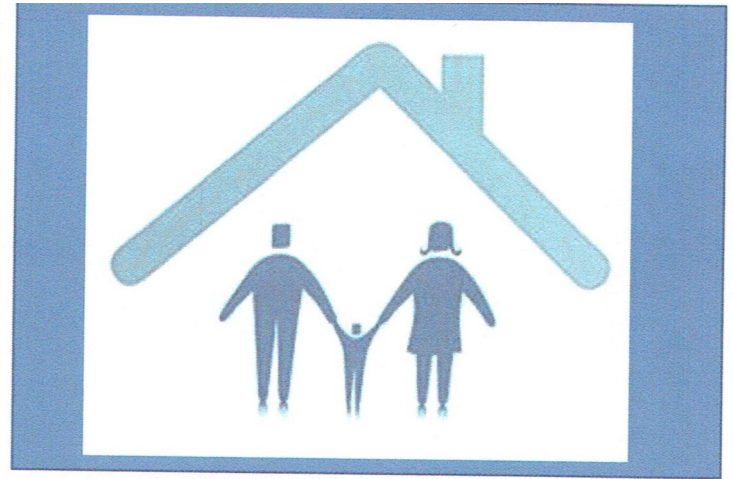
COVID HOUSING PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

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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

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

Building Opportunities to Transform Communities.

Worth Sharing Again!

Training and Upskilling Your Workforce

We all would like to hire someone that is 100% proficient at their job on day one. Reality, however, tells us that is an unrealistic expectation. Training new hires and upskilling your incumbents is an investment in your company and a proven retention strategy. National numbers for apprentices alone show that 91% of graduates remain at their training employer. Here are the resources available to train and upskill your workforce.

- Apprenticeship Illinois Navigator:
Nikelle Tellier: nikelle_tellier@best-inc.org
- Incumbent Worker Training Grant available through BEST, Inc.:
Dianna Schuler: dianna_schuler@best-inc.org
- Customized Training through IVCC and SVCC:
Jennifer Sowers, IVCC: jennifer.sowers@ivcc.edu
Brenda Helms, SVCC: Brenda.helms@svcc.edu



Incentives: Illinois Apprenticeship Education Tax Credit: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/ExpandRelocate/Incentives/Pages/ILApprenticeshipTaxCredit.aspx>

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, 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

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

For more information on this initiative please contact
Dianna Schuler at dianna_schuler@best-inc.org or
call at 815-640-9406

DRS NEWS

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) and a busy month for our agency. In celebration, Division of Rehabilitation Services – DRS, Workforce Development Unit staff and counselors hosted a DRS Inaugural NDEAM Virtual Hiring Event. This event was created to support Division of Rehabilitation Services, Vocational Rehabilitation customers in the changing world of work during National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) in October. The 3-day hiring event, October 19-21, 2021, included pre-employment workshops, employer presentations, as well as direct engagements in their respective breakout rooms.

The DRS Workforce Development Unit held an annual DRS Employer Recognition Award Celebration, which is always in October. This year's theme was **America's Recovery Powered by Inclusion**. The Workforce Development Unit recognized employers throughout the State and applauded them for their efforts in diversifying their workforce. Categories this year were the Employer of the Year Award, Employer Partnership Award, and the new Innovation Award category. The Employer of the Year Award is presented to an employer that takes pride of their company when it comes to working with individuals with disabilities and incorporates a diverse culture. This employer is recognized based on their performance of their responsibilities and specific contributions to the mission, goals, and values of employing people with disabilities. This award is recognized by DRS staff for their contributions and achievements in working with our customers in a competitive employment setting.

Employer of the Year 2021

Chicago Lighthouse
Peoria Production Solutions
Stoney Creek Inn
McAlister's Deli

Employer Partnership of the Year 2021

James Emmett & Company
Advocate Aurora Health
Caterpillar-Champaign
Hy-Vee Quincy

DRS Innovation Award 2021

The Bazaar
Crystal Clear Window Washing and Janitorial Services

DRS Business Services Consultants participated in several in-person disability job fairs in October with workforce partners throughout Northern Illinois, including McHenry and Will County.

On October 7th, DRS Business Services Consultants participated in the Sheridan Correctional Center Re-Entry Summit, and on October 29th, in the Statesville Correctional Center Re-Entry Summit. At the Re-Entry Summit's we met with 200+ inmates that were scheduled to be released within one week to 6 months, sharing information on DRS services and ways we can assist them when they're released with employment and educational services.

The Workforce Development Unit has also been working on a DRS Apprenticeship project, reaching out to employers and partners to obtain information on all 500+ Statewide Apprenticeship programs to learn and share "Earn & Learn" opportunities with customers and partners.

BEST, Inc. Mid-Year Graduates



We would like to acknowledge all the time and hard work our Mid-Year Graduates put into accomplishing their goals. Congratulations!!!!

Castor Health Institute: Kyleigh: CNA, Shaylynne: CNA, Bre: CNA,

Education Outreach Program (GED): Alyssa, Chase, Jacob,

Daniel, Reagan, Kaylynn, Laterika, Romello

Illinois Valley Community College: Michael: CDL,

Illinois Welding School: Steve: Combination Structural/Pipe Welding Specialist

Midwest Technical Institute: Stephanie: Medical Assistant, Hector: HVAC, Stephanie: Dental Assisting,

Rock Falls High School: Alexis

Sauk Valley Community College: Gonzalo: CDL, Caitlynn: Welding, Jennifer: Welding, Ben: CDL, Alex: CDL,

Step Ahead Program: Reese: GED, Haylee: GED, Morganne: GED

West Chicago Professional Center: Matthew: Combined HVAC + Electrician Tech, David: Combined HVAC + Electrician Tech

Access to services provided by each of the member agencies is available by contacting:

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

BEST, Inc.
2605 Woodlawn Rd.
Sterling, IL 61081
815-625-9648

November 2021 Unemployment Rate

Most Recent Available:

National 3.9%

State of IL 4.5%

LWIA 4 3.9%

Bureau Co 3.7%

Carroll Co. 3.3%

Jo Daviess Co 3.1%

LaSalle Co 4.6%

Lee Co 3.5%

Ogle Co 4.2%

Putnam Co 3.8%

Whiteside Co. 3.5%

Wondering what the NCI Works partners can do for your business? Our matrix of business services is available online at 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 and BEST, Inc website at www.best-inc.org

Labor Force Data	UI % Current Month (Nov. 2021)
Employment	120,177
Average Annual Wage	\$47,771
Percentage Change Over 2021 2nd Quarter	-1.6%
Unemployment Rate: Nov. 2021	3.9%
Industry	2nd Quarter 2021
Ag, Fishing, Forestry/Hunting	4,592
Mining/Quarrying/Oil/Gas	734
Utilities	1,576
Construction	6,056
Manufacturing	18,541
Wholesale Trade	4,798
Retail Trade	13,605
Transportation/Warehousing	8,362
Information	862
Finance/Insurance	3,454
Real Estate/Rental and Leasing	1,315
Professional Science/Technical	3,389
Management	330
Administrative Support	5,002
Educational	9,747
Health Care/Social Assistance	13,871
Arts/Entertainment/Recreation	1,297
Accommodation/Food Service	9,254
Other Services	5,689
Public Administration	7,696
Unclassified	7
Total All Industries	120,177
LWIA 4 Industry Employment Data/Source: Jobseq (2021Q2)	