

**Northwest Central IL Works (NCI Works)
Meeting
Tuesday, September 2, 2025
12:00 Noon
Business Employment Skills Team, Inc., 4110 Progress Blvd., Suite 1C, Peru, IL
One Stop Center, 406 Avenue C, Sterling, IL
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89883647648>
Meeting ID: 898 8364 7648
One tap mobile
+13126266799
Meeting ID: 89883647648# US (Chicago)**

AGENDA

Call to Order (Patty Head)

Roll Call

Approval of May 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes (**Page 1**)

Business Meeting

- Resignation from Teresa Strum
- Introduction of New Member – Chris Blumoff

Executive Director's Report

- NCI Works Reappointment & Recertification Process (Carrie Folken)

Committee Reports (*Informational Only*)

- Employer Engagement Committee (August 5, 2025 (**Page 9**))
- Business Liaison & Marketing Committee (August 6, 2025) (**Page 11**)
- Youth Committee (August 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes) (**Page 13**)
- One Stop Partner Committee (August 19, 2025) (**Page 16**)

Oversight Committee Report (Linda Hessenberger)

- Review and Approval of the Financial Reports Ending June 20, 2025 (*Action Item*) (**Page 19**)
- Review & Approval of the 4th Quarter Title I Performance Report (*Action Item*) (**Page 20**)
- Review & Approval of PY 24 Fourth Quarter Partner Report (*Action Item*) (**Page 21**)
- Review of the Partner Referral Report (**Page 22**)
- Review of One Stop Partner Customer Satisfaction Survey (**Page 23**)

- Training Program Recertifications from Illinois Valley Community College (*Action Item*)
 - Pharmacy Technician (*Page 34*)
 - Medical Billing & Coding (*Page 37*)
- Training Program Certification from Castor (*Action Item*)
 - Dual Enrollment – CNA & Phlebotomist Certifications (*Page 40*)
- Training Program Certification from Sauk Valley Community College (*Action Item*)
 - Diagnostic Medical Sonography (*Page 43*)

Other Business

- Request authority to submit PY 25 WIOA Grant Request (Carrie Folken) (*Action Item*)
- Request to modify the PY 25 Memorandum of Understanding to include the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) (Carrie Folken) (*Page 46*) (*Action Item*)
- Request approval for any grant modifications (if necessary) (Carrie Folken) (*Possible Action Item*)
- Grant Updates (Carrie Folken)

PY 2024 State of Illinois Supplemental Grant – Final Grant Report

Barrier Reduction – We have had 54 requests and payments of Barrier Reduction/Incentives. Staff like the idea of this pot of money being available to help customers in need. We will probably ask for something similar to this again next year if this grant is available

Work Based Learning - The communities seem to be very receptive to this program. The individual who was at Streator ended her experience because she was able to obtain fulltime unsubsidized employment. We have filled the need in Streator with a BRR being present at the Library by appointments.

We have had 45 individuals placed in work based learning for this grant. Some examples of this year's worksites are Sterling Public Schools, Dixon Chamber, Teen Turf, Dixon Township, Hegeler-Carus Foundation, City of Mendota, Mendota YMCA, Oregon Supervalu – just to give examples.

Financial Literacy - Several individuals have went through the financial literacy program and received an incentive. Those individuals are counted in the Barrier Reduction number as a supportive service.

Professional Development - The event took place on June 11, 2025, with over 50 people in attendance. Everyone was very receptive with the information from the presenter from U of I .

PY 2025 Supplemental Grant - We have submitted a grant application for the PY 2025 year for the amount of \$245,611.00. We proposed 6 projects. 3 Central Processing Units for Freedom

House, Work Based Learning opportunities, Barrier Reduction Fund, Financial Literacy, Workplace Skills and Life skills project, Lunch and Learn programs and finally, accessibility computer updates in the Sterling American Job Center (AJC).

PY 2024 Apprenticeship Activities

This grant year we have had 1 new program signed and added to the ETPL - Borg Warner. We had 3 more in ongoing development:

Ottawa Fire Dept. for Firefighter/Paramedic: Standards have been compiled and are awaiting the approval of the City of Ottawa's City Council so that they can be submitted for DOL approval. Rochelle Elementary for para-pro to teacher through McKendree University: Appendix D has been signed by all parties necessary and an updated note entered in APIL reporting. We are receiving credit for this as an apprenticeship expansion. It is included in the planned/actual numbers below.

Bloomboard: Submitted an outline for MAT which will allow those para-pros with a bachelor's degree to obtain their teaching certification/license. Have been informed by DOL that what was submitted is insufficient and unnecessary. Those with bachelor's degrees can easily be served by the existing program with credit being given for education and ojt previously completed. Sauk Valley Community College: Early Childhood Education/Educator is in the initial/exploratory stage of development. First meeting with SVCC was held on 6/17/25.

- Partner Updates (Partner members) and Member updates (NCI Works members that want to update the board about their business needs)
- BEST Success Stories (Page 48)
- Next Meetings:

✓ NCI Works Meeting – November 4, 2025

Public Comments

Adjournment