



Geared Toward The Future

NORTHWEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

WORKS



Annual Report

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

835
Businesses
Served

Over \$4,00,000 - Invested in local job seekers, employers, and our communities.
35,560 - People served at NCI Works American Job Centers in Local Workforce Area 4.

BEST, Inc. Contractual Youth Providers

Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education	33	\$ 83,703
Regional Office of Education #35 (LaSalle and Putnam Counties)	72	\$ 131,050
Regional Office of Education #47 (Whiteside Lee and Ogle Counties)	108	\$ 197,739

Regional Agency Partners

Committed to help Local Workforce Area #4 thrive

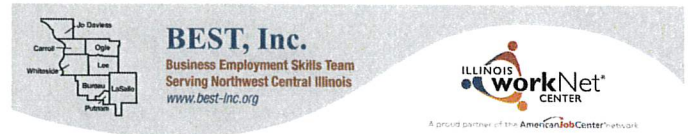
- Business Employment Skills Team, Inc.
- Illinois Department of Employment Security
- Illinois Department of Human Services (TANF)
- Illinois Department of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- Illinois Valley Community College
- National Able Network
- National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)
- Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging (NWILAAA)
- Sauk Valley Community College
- Tri-County Opportunities Council

Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. (BEST, Inc) has invested **\$88,102.90** in Incumbent Worker Funds to **upskilled 49 employees** accross **8 companies**.

Local Workforce Area #4 •• Partner's Year in Review

Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. (BEST, Inc.)

- In PY 2024 (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025) BEST directly served 445 enrolled participants.
- In the first 3 months after exiting the program, Adult and Dislocated worker participants earned a total of \$1,404,355, an increase of \$777,866.37 earned over the quarter prior to enrollment.
- 104 BEST participants earned a credential in PY 2024.



Illinois Department of Employment Security (Sterling & Ottawa Illinois Offices)

- IDES is continuing to strengthen our relationship with our Title 1 Partners (BEST Inc.), even though they are no longer housed in the Ottawa IDES office by maintaining regular contact with them through partner trainings and Business Services meetings, etc.
- We were able to successfully assist 152 employees who were laid off in Streator, IL due to a plant closure to file for unemployment benefits through rapid response efforts and by coordinating a multi-employer hiring event in Streator, IL in December 2024 to assist those employees in finding new employment.
- Twenty-two job seeker workshops were held and two of them that were held were how to apply for state of Illinois jobs. The workshops that are held in Ottawa at IDES are a great opportunity for our WIOA partners to refer their customers to the workshops, particularly DHS who is housed in the same building with IDES.



Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services (LaSalle Office)

- We have a new permanent supervisor, Shayne Miller
- The DRS rules have changed such that no financial analysis will be done on anyone receiving college training services.
- DRS Staff attended vocation rehabilitation summits at almost every prison in the state this past spring.
- LaSalle successfully closed 52 cases involving persons with disabilities this fiscal year with an average of 24 hours a week and \$16.32 per hour.
- We've served 45 youth this year, 22 of them were given financial assistance to attend college.



Illinois Valley Community College Career & Technical Education

- **1000+ Students 7th -12th grade came to IVCC for Career Exploration Events:**
 1. Manufacturing Expo (October/ High School),
 2. Halls of Opportunity (March/ 7 and 8th Career Fair), and
 3. Building Trades Exp (March/ High School/ A Union Trades Partnership)
- **2000+ hours of supportive student services** provided through our student support network and programs.
- **IVCC Office of Student Success** piloted and succeed in generating 1. New Student Onboarding Programing 2. IVCC Future Student Exploration, and 3. Automated Credit for Prior Learning System.
- **Marketing** has updated programmatic photos across CTE programs and is currently developing new digital content and flyers.



Illinois Valley Community College Adult Education

- 54 Adult Ed. students completed GED® Testing.
- 25 GED completers transitioned to post-secondary education.
- 7 ICAPS students received credentials in healthcare and manufacturing.

Sauk Valley Community College Adult Education

- 194 students served this year with 100 students improving their reading level and 24 students earning their Illinois High School diploma.
- The CNA ICAPS course was offered with 1 adult education student successfully completing the CNA program earning the CNA certificate and state licensure.
- Five students completed the College and Career Bridge course. Three of these students have transitioned to college, registering for the fall semester at Sauk Valley Community College.



Sauk Valley Community College Perkins Grant

- Successfully hosted CTE Open House for over 50 community members in partnership with ROE 47
- Successfully hosted Manufacturing Day in partnership with 6 local districts, ROE 47, and 8 industry partners
- Successfully updated marketing campaign to better represent non-traditional students



Tri-County Opportunities Council (TCOC)

- Through the STEP (Skills Training and Opportunities for Experience) Program, the agency assisted 18 customers with funding and support to achieve a short-term certification and obtain employment related to that certification. Some examples include certifications in CDL, CNA, Phlebotomy, and Welding.
- Beginning in March 2025, the agency co-led a coalition of veterans service organizations, in partnership with REINSTITUTE, that launched the 100-Day Challenge to tackle veteran homelessness in Whiteside County. By June 30, 2025, the team successfully housed five veteran families, each now connected to supportive services that promote long-term stability.
- The 100 Day Challenge created a coordinated referral and support system between TCOC and veteran service providers. This system ensures streamlined communication, faster service access, and stronger outcomes. The partnership continues today through monthly meeting.



Student Support:

The following chart represents the number of students receiving financial support from NCI Works for Program Year 2024.

Entity	# of students	\$\$ of support
Carl Sandburg College	1	\$ 1,364
Castor Health Institute	9	\$ 14,150
Dental Assisting Technology	1	\$ 5,850
EICCD-Clinton Community College	2	\$ 3,526
Highland Community College	7	\$ 13,873
Illinois Valley Community College	76	\$ 160,232
Kishwaukee College	8	\$ 27,893
Midwest Technical Institute	2	\$ 13,500
Rasmussen College	1	\$ 20,844
Sauk Valley Community College	104	\$ 381,468
160 Driving Academy	2	\$ 5,875



For information regarding the Northwest Central IL Works (NCI Works) or any of their initiatives and/or projects, contact:

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Prepared by the Business Liaison & Marketing Committee of NCI Works!
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