



Explore a Career as a

CHEF OR COOK

Target Occupation Profile

What do Chefs and Cooks do?

Chefs and cooks are responsible for preparing and overseeing the preparation of food in restaurants and other places where food is served. As a chef or cook, you may be responsible for directing kitchen tasks and staff. Chefs may have the opportunity to create menu recipes and accommodate food orders to follow special dietary requests. These professionals work in fast-paced environments and often are expected to work early mornings, late nights, weekends and holidays. Head chefs who run their own restaurants are responsible for overseeing the operation of the kitchen, including managing advertising, finances and other administrative tasks.

Chef and Cooks are in demand in Cook County!

Cook County employment of chefs and cooks is expected to grow through the year 2020.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics recognizes this career field as growing faster than average.

Training & Educational Opportunities

You will have plenty of employment opportunities as a chef or cook, but first you will need to complete training at a community college, technical school, culinary arts school, or a four-year college. Most of your training time will be spent in the kitchen learning about various types of foods, recipe creation and preparation, sanitary procedures and inventory methods.

As a Chef or Cook you will:

- Estimate amounts and costs of required supplies
- Supervise or coordinate activities of kitchen staff
- Plan and price menu items and keep inventory records
- Train food preparation or food service personnel
- Inspect food, ensuring it is fresh
- Maintain sanitary work environment

Cook or Chef

Training Providers

There are many training providers available in Cook County to supply you with the training you need for a career as a cook or chef.

To access a list of training providers for these occupations and many more, please visit Illinoisworknet.com and select the 'Training and Credentials' menu option to view 'WIOA Approved Training Programs.'



Types of Employers

There are different types of companies that employ chefs and cooks in Cook County, including :

- Restaurants
- Hotels
- Schools/Universities
- Catering companies
- Private households

Wages & Openings

Cook and Chef Employment Data for Cook County

Average Starting Hourly Wage	\$11.49
Average Hourly Wage With Experience	\$18.15
Average Annual Job Openings Cook County	1,419
Average Annual Job Openings Chicago Metro	965

*Source: Emsi, 2017.2

Opportunities

After you complete training and receive your certificate as a cook or chef, you will have other opportunities for advancement. Some opportunities include:

- Food Service Manager
- Executive/Head Chef
- Catering Manager



Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership
workforceboard.org

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