

Serving Job Seekers and Employers

Cook County Career Connector Events

Cook County allocated a three-year, \$15 million commitment of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to The Partnership to launch and expand programs to:

- Address the urgent hiring needs of employers.
- Scale programs to connect young adults to sector focused training and paid internships.
- Provide employment programming to people with prior justice system involvement.
- And increase outreach and service navigation for people with disabilities and other barriers to employment.

The Partnership is administering this suite of programs and estimates it will impact 500 businesses and approximately 14,000 residents of Cook County.

Cook County
**CAREER
CONNECTOR**



In May of 2022, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle announced the launch of [The Cook County Career Connector Program](#). The Program consists of holding hiring events at suburban Cook County sites within The Partnership’s network and promoting a more inclusive and equitable economy as Cook County emerges from the pandemic. These efforts are designed to connect residents to quality jobs while connecting employers to a skilled and diverse talent pool. The Program includes two main types of events: six large-scale signature regional events led by The Partnership’s five suburban [Cook County American Job Centers \(AJCs\)](#) and smaller hyper-local events, some of which targeted certain populations or industry sectors.

“As we continue to emerge from the effects of the pandemic, we have heard the needs of the thousands of residents still looking for employment and hundreds of businesses struggling to meet their talent needs,” said President Preckwinkle. “The Career Connector events bridge the gap between employers and job seekers in this incredibly tight job market.”

More than 1,200 job seekers and nearly 400 employers attended a dozen Career Connector events in the summer and fall of 2022 in suburban Cook County.

