



CHICAGO COOK
WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP

A proud partner of the **AmericanJobCenter**® network



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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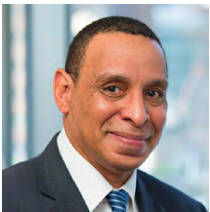
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Message from the CEO

A Year of Reimagining The Partnership and Workforce Development



George Wright

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)

The Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership made significant strides during Program Year 2023 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024), both internally and externally. This year was about “reimagining” our organization and how we deliver best-in-class service to career seekers and employer partners. Our team understands the phrase, “No one can guarantee change will be good, but nothing good has ever come without change,” which guided our work over the past year.

This report includes data that may seem dry, but it tells a powerful

story. **With a budget of over \$100 million, we re-granted funds to community-based organizations,** benefiting both career seekers and employers. What you’ll find here are real stories of the impact these investments made in the lives of regional residents and businesses.

The Partnership achieved nearly 60 new milestones, from cutting costs to improving processes. Almost a third of our staff is newly hired or promoted. The phrase, “that’s how we’ve always done it,” no longer applies, as we’ve evolved deliberately to strengthen our network.

As CEO, I extend our gratitude to local, state, and federal partners, funders, community leaders, board members, and many others who played a key role in this Year of Reimagining.

As I often say, “No one cares what you know until they know you care.” Thank you for your time and support. We look forward to continuing our service.



Our Mission

To create, promote, and effectively manage a network of workforce development organizations that:

Design innovative solutions to address business needs, and

Prepare individuals for and connect them to career opportunities.

Our Vision

Every person has the opportunity to build a career; every business has the talent to grow and compete in a global economy.



Principles



QUALITY

We commit to continuous improvement. We aspire to a standard of excellence that ensures the delivery of high caliber services for all stakeholders while identifying opportunities for further growth.



TRANSPARENCY

We clearly communicate our expectations, policies, and processes to stakeholders and partners. We openly and publicly share the results of our initiatives.



INNOVATION

We design and implement initiatives that result in dynamic outcomes for businesses and job seekers alike. We seek creative solutions to current and future workforce development challenges.



DIGNITY OF WORK

We believe in the value of work and the mutually beneficial impact that it has on individuals and the companies that employ them. We support investment in human capital as a means of strengthening local communities and the regional economy.



EQUITY

We intentionally acknowledge systems of oppression when providing the resources and supports people need to reach their full economic and human potential. We actively work to eliminate disparities people experience based on race/ethnicity, disability, background, gender, age, sexual orientation, or economic and educational status. We partner with employers who share our belief and are committed to the idea that all residents of our region can achieve a meaningful career that provides family-sustaining income.



FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & STEWARDSHIP

As stewards of public, private, and philanthropic funds, we ensure effective and efficient management of our resources to achieve the maximum returns on investment and greatest impact on the business or individual served.



COLLABORATION


We strategically engage a variety of local, regional, state, and national partners in workforce and economic development to ensure program effectiveness. The breadth of these activities allows us to connect businesses and individuals to a wide array of resources.

Workforce Innovation Board (WIB) & The Partnership's Board of Directors

The Partnership's Board of Directors

<p>Jacki Robinson-Ivy CO-CHAIR Northern Trust</p>	<p>Haven Allen CO-CHAIR mHUB</p>	<p>Michael Jacobson Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association</p>
<p>Liisa Stark Union Pacific Railroad</p>	<p>Pam McDonough McDonough Enterprises</p>	<p>Adam Hecktman For Good Advisory</p>

WIB Directors

<p>Jacki Robinson-Ivy CO-CHAIR Northern Trust</p>	<p>Haven Allen CO-CHAIR mHUB</p>	<p>Don Finn IBEW Local 134</p>
<p>Xochitl Flores Cook County Bureau of Economic Development</p>	<p>Jennifer Foster Illinois Community College Board</p>	<p>Adam Hecktman For Good Advisory</p>
<p>Michael Jacobson Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association</p>	<p>Rahnee K. Patrick Illinois Department of Human Services</p>	<p>Pam McDonough McDonough Enterprises</p>
<p>Donovan Pepper Walgreens</p>	<p>Robert Reiter Jr. Chicago Federation of Labor</p>	<p>Juan Salgado City Colleges of Chicago</p>
<p>Marc Schulman Eli's Cheesecake</p>	<p>Liisa Stark Union Pacific Railroad</p>	
<p>Jason Spigner Sinai Health System</p>	<p>Carrie Thomas Illinois Department of Employment Security</p>	



Reimagining Serving Career Seekers and Career Providers (Employers)

with WIOA Funding: A Snapshot

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Investment: The Partnership is a nonprofit umbrella organization operating one of the largest public workforce systems in the U.S. As the designated administrator of federal WIOA funding for Chicago and **132 suburban Cook County municipalities**, it **invested over \$70 million** over the past program year to support workforce development. **These funds provided services to nearly 4,000 adults, 2,300 dislocated workers, and 2,600 youth (ages 16-24).**

WIOA Funded Adult	WIOA Funded Dislocated Worker	WIOA Funded Youth
3947 Registrants 2030 New Enrollments 2003 Exiters 2357 Training	2278 Registrants 1145 New Enrollments 1072 Exiters 1826 Training	2687 Registrants 1329 New Enrollments 1121 Exiters
42.4% Female 57.2% Male	39.5% Female 60.3% Male	52.3% Female 47.3% Male
61% Black 23% White 20% Hispanic 4% Asian <i>People may select more than 1 race</i>	49.1% Black 31% White 26.3% Hispanic 4.8% Asian <i>People may select more than 1 race</i>	61% Black 20% White 29% Hispanic 2% Asian <i>People may select more than 1 race</i>
73% Low-income (<i>60% on food stamps</i>) 47.8% Living in Low-poverty Area 56.2% Basic Skills Deficient 15% Report Prior Offenses 7% Report Long-term Unemployment 6.5% Single Parents	61.3% Receiving Unemployment Insurance 35.3% Exhausted U.I. Benefits 43% Low-income (<i>21% on food stamps</i>) 38.9% Basic Skills Deficient 4% Veterans 4% Report Prior Offenses 19.9% Report Long-term Unemployment	41% Low-income (<i>25% on food stamps</i>) 46% Living in a Poverty Area 14.3% Report Having a Disabling Condition 10.7% Experiencing Homelessness 12.5% Pregnant/parenting 38.9% Basic Skills Deficient 3% Report Prior Offenses
6% Did Not Graduate from High School 55% High School Graduate 7.6% Post High School 15.7% College Graduate	5.2% Did Not Graduate from High School 48.3% High School Graduate 5.9% Post High School 29.7% College Graduate	17% In-school Youth 83% Out-of-school Youth 59% High School Diploma 14.5% Drop Out 3% Post High School 3% College Graduate
1346 Exited with Employment \$24.03/hour Average Wage at Placement	798 Exited with Employment \$28.21/hour Average Wage at Placement	651 Exited with Employment <i>Still Assessing Wage at Placement</i> 123 Exited With Post-secondary Education





Reimagining Serving New Arrivals

The City of Chicago has been a sanctuary city since 1985, when then-Mayor Harold Washington prohibited officials from denying services or investigating individuals solely based on immigration status.

As of August 31, 2022, Chicago had welcomed over 47,000 new arrivals from the southern border. In Program Year 2023, The Partnership led parts of the City's workforce development response.

In July 2023, President Joe Biden granted Temporary Protective Status (TPS) to Venezuelan arrivals who entered the U.S. before that time. By November, The Partnership and its partners, including scaleLIT, the Illinois Department of Employment and Security, and the Department of Family and Support Services, established a workforce site at the Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building in Chicago. Here, staff welcomed new arrivals, many living in shelters, and provided free legal support to apply for TPS, helping them work toward employment authorization. Before the site closed and services moved elsewhere, **staff collected nearly 3,500 workforce survey forms, leading to training and workforce development.**

Workforce Group Collaborative Agencies & Partners

- Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
- United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Illinois Department of Employment Security
- The Resurrection Project
- Chicago Family & Support Services (Shelters)
- Metropolitan Family Services
- scaleLIT
- City Colleges of Chicago
- Illinois Community College Board
- Employers
- Cook County Bureau of Economic Development





Reimagining How Customers Reach Us

The Partnership's One-Stop Operator

The Partnership contracts with scaleLIT as its "One-Stop Operator" (OSO) to coordinate and oversee the American Job Center (AJC) network. Over the past program year, **scaleLIT hosted 80 partner meetings** and issued resource newsletters highlighting programs and events at the ten AJCs. As OSO, scaleLIT led working groups to develop system-wide solutions, including the rollout of a shared **referral system generating over 1,200 referrals** and mapping business services across AJC partners. The team also released an AJC manual for staff onboarding and cross-training, and **managed over 3,800 onsite and 2,100 workshop satisfaction surveys** across the system.





American Job Centers: [LevelUpAJC.org](https://www.levelupajc.org)

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) offers various resources for employers and career seekers. **Ten American Job Centers (AJCs)—five in suburban Cook County and five in Chicago—serve as the “front door” to The Partnership’s network,** connecting career seekers and employers with employment services. **In late 2023, The Partnership launched LevelUpAJC.org,** an online tool allowing users to virtually access AJCs and connect with The Partnership’s network of about 70 community-based organizations. Customers can also contact an AJC by calling 1-800-720-2515. **By June 2024, the site had received over 22,000 views.**



The Partnership Show with George Wright on WVON-AM Radio

The Partnership’s CEO and staff hosted “The Partnership Show with George Wright,” a live, call-in radio program on WVON-AM on Saturday mornings. It connected listeners with CEO George Wright, staff, community organizations, career seekers, and employer partners. **With around 700,000 listeners tuning in,** the show outperformed the shows before and after it on WVON’s Saturday morning programming line up.



The 17 agencies in The Partnership's network that provide services to the various communities throughout Cook County are:

- Business and Career Services, Inc.
- BEDS Plus
- Calumet Area Industrial Commission
- Central States SER
- CFL Workforce & Community Initiative
- Dynamic Educational Systems Inc.
- Employment and Employer Services
- EQUUS Workforce Solutions
- Greater West Town Community Development Project
- Jane Addams Resource Corporation
- KRA Corporation
- Lawrence Hall
- National Able Network
- Safer Foundation
- SERCO Inc.
- Symbol Training Institute
- YWCA

Reimagining Opportunities for Career Seekers

Continuing Pandemic Recovery in Suburban Cook County

In October 2022, **The Partnership secured nearly \$6 million to help Cook County communities address economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 national health emergency.** Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy and Training (QUEST) Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grant (QUEST DWG) funds support individuals impacted by the pandemic and the social and economic inequalities it worsened, helping them enter, return to, or advance in quality jobs within high-growth industries.

The QUEST program has benefited over 600 individuals through occupational training, on-the-job training, job placement, support services, and paid work experience. These initiatives have enabled participants to secure employment and foster personal and professional growth. The program was extended through September 2025.





Promoting Registered Apprenticeship Programs

The Partnership aligns its apprenticeship efforts with the U.S. Department of Labor's Registered Apprenticeship Program, expanding beyond traditional trades to non-traditional industries nationwide.

In the past program year, The Partnership received an 'Apprenticeship Illinois' grant to promote the benefits of apprenticeship models to regional employers, helping them build talent pipelines.

During the same period, **40 career seekers enrolled in certified apprenticeship programs**, with participation expected to grow across all industries.

Funding Training: Meeting Career Seeker Tuition Needs

Pursuant to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requirements, occupational training is offered free through Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) to regional career seekers. ITAs are tuition vouchers that cover the cost of obtaining industry-recognized credentials, certifications, or degrees from providers in The Partnership's network. Depending on the field, **ITAs can fund up to \$8,000 in tuition.**

In Program Year 2023, **The Partnership invested over \$16.1 million in training and issued more than 2,900 ITAs.** Of those who received an ITA and exited the program, over **76% completed training, and 76% secured employment.**

Digital Literacy: Removing Technology as a Barrier to Employment

The Partnership is committed to removing barriers that prevent individuals from building meaningful careers. In today's fast-growing sectors, digital literacy is crucial for job searches and career growth. To meet this need, The Partnership offers no-cost monthly online digital literacy workshops. Last program year, **nearly 400 residents attended 90 webinars** covering topics like resume building, job search tools, and Microsoft Office and Google applications.





The Career Provider: Covering Costs to Train and Upskill the Workforce

The Partnership connects employers with tools to foster professional development, job retention, and career growth through various training models, including On-the-Job Training (OJT) and Incumbent Worker Training (IWT).

OJT covers up to 50% of training wages and costs for new employees during their first six months or 1,040 hours. Trainees are company employees engaged in hands-on learning, acquiring the technical skills needed for their roles, with employers providing the training.

The Partnership invested over \$2.2 million in 361 OJT programs, benefiting 252 adults, 91 dislocated workers, and 18 youth.



IWT reimburses employers for job-specific training that enhances employee qualifications for career advancement. The aim is to expand the skilled workforce and create entry-level opportunities as employees progress.

In Program Year 2023, **The Partnership reimbursed employers about \$200,000 for IWT projects.**



Good Jobs Chicagoland: An Employer Focused Program

In August 2022, **The Partnership secured an \$18.5 million grant** from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) Good Jobs Challenge for employer-led workforce development. Known as Good Jobs Chicagoland, the program promotes economic resilience and growth in Chicago and Cook County through employer-led, community-driven efforts.

The program is supported by four backbone organizations and several support agencies:

Manufacturing

The Cook County Bureau of Economic Development leads the south suburban Calumet Manufacturing Industry Sector Partnership.

Healthcare

Health & Medicine Policy Research Group, a leader in health workforce policy, coordinates a coalition of **12 major health systems** and strategic partners.

Information Technology

P33 leads the Chicago Tech Talent Alliance, a network of **over 50 companies** working on collaborative talent solutions.

Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (TDL)

Olive-Harvey College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago, partners with YWCA, which operates The Partnership’s TDL sector center to align programs with employer advisory groups and partnerships.

Program Year 2023 Update:

Employer Training Plans submitted:

45

Participants in training to be upskilled:

280

Participants placed in employment:

175



Reimagining Career Exploration for Youth and Young Adults

Investing WIOA Funding in the Next Generation of Workers

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) mandates that **75% of youth funds go to out-of-school youth**, making this a key focus of The Partnership's work. **It supports 41 delegate agencies** through WIOA funds and additional agencies with other funding sources.



Skilled Trades Career Fair

In March 2024, The Partnership joined Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson and CPS Chief Education Officer Bogdana Chkoumbova for a three-day Skilled Trades Career Fair at McCormick Place. The event, held with City agencies, City Colleges of Chicago, and labor and corporate partners, **offered about 3,000 CPS students a close-up look at high school and postsecondary opportunities in the skilled trades.**



Collaborating with World Business Chicago and Richard J. Daley College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago

The Partnership collaborated with World Business Chicago and others to introduce CPS counselors and students to regional workforce programs, offering insights into opportunities available after graduation. A key focus of this collaboration is the manufacturing sector. The Partnership also works with Daley College, home to an American Job Center in its network, and the College's Manufacturing, Technology, and Engineering Center to highlight careers in manufacturing. **Daley College has hosted events with up to 300 students** featuring classroom discussions on manufacturing careers.



OpportunityWorks

In 2017, in partnership with the Office of Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and private funders, The Partnership launched OpportunityWorks, followed by OpportunitySummer in 2022. These programs offer paid internships to suburban Cook County youth (ages 16-24) who are out of school and/or unemployed. County funding supports wages and connects interns with businesses in high-growth, high-demand sectors like Manufacturing; IT; Construction; Healthcare; and Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (TDL), exposing them to new career paths.

OpportunityWorks is a year-round program that **provides eight-week internships, paying \$15 an hour for 25 hours per week.**

OpportunitySummer is a seven-week program that launched in 2022.

Over Program Year 2023:

More than
460
young adults
enrolled in
OpportunityWorks.

Nearly
88%
of the participants
completed an
internship.

More than
86
employers
participated in
the program.

83%
of the participants successfully
moved on to school or work
within six months of enrolling
in the program.

Union Pacific is funding an all-female cohort of OpportunityWorks focused on TDL.

The 16-week program includes four weeks of paid internship, with classes held in person at South Suburban College. The first cohort graduated in June 2024.



Chicago's Community Health Response Corps:

Expanding Community Health and Workforce Development to Continue Providing Equity throughout the Region

In July 2023, Chicago's Community Response Corps (CHRC) advanced COVID-19 recovery and prevention efforts by **focusing on reducing the racial life expectancy gap through addressing key health determinants**, including access to care and services. The CHRC broadened its impact by helping residents access reliable information, recovery support (economic and social programs), and essential health resources.



Over the past Program Year, the Corps focused on:

Staffing the Call Center and Resource Coordination Hub:

Responded to inbound hotline calls, provided guidance on COVID-related issues, vaccines (MPox, Flu, Measles), Diabetes Prevention, Tobacco Cessation, Medicaid Redetermination, and connected residents to local resources.

Conducted outbound calls for vaccine follow-ups, event reminders, and follow-ups from in-person events.

Engaging in hyperlocal outreach in low-vaccination and underinsured neighborhoods.

Hosting community events to train community-based organization staff, clients, and residents in Bystander CPR, Diabetes Prevention, and Tobacco Cessation.

Supporting City-led events like Swap-O-Rama Flea Market, County Care events, Medicaid Redetermination, and providing services at migrant shelters, including vaccine scheduling, translation, and outreach support.





From July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, 12 community-based organizations employed Corps members.

- Alliance Center 360/Brothers Health Collective
- Calumet Area Industrial Commission
- Central States SER
- Greater West Town Community Development Project
- Habilitative Systems
- KLEO Community Family Center
- Phalanx Family Services
- Puerto Rican Cultural Center
- SGA Youth and Family Services
- The Resurrection Project
- Lawrence Hall
- Safer Foundation

Throughout the year, Corps members participated in workforce development training to prepare for career growth. They had access to Google Certificate courses in Project Management, Data Analytics, UX Design, Digital Marketing, and IT Support. In April 2024, The Partnership hosted a Community Health Worker Summit at Malcolm X College, part of the City Colleges of Chicago, where Corps members showcased their achievements.

Over 150 members and City officials attended, with Commissioner Simbo Ige, MD, from the Chicago Department of Public Health delivering a heartfelt closing speech. The next day, many members joined a hiring event and transitioned into roles in healthcare, patient experience, and community health work.



Serving Career Seekers and Career Providers (Employers) in Suburban Cook County from Wheeling to Chicago Heights

In 2022, Cook County **allocated \$15 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds** to The Partnership to address employers' urgent hiring needs, expand youth training and internships, support job programs for individuals with justice system involvement, and enhance outreach for people with disabilities and other employment barriers. The Partnership, overseeing these programs, **aims to benefit 500 businesses and about 14,000 Cook County residents.**



Cook County Career Connector Program

In May 2022, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and The Partnership launched The Cook County Career Connector Program. The initiative hosts hiring events across Suburban Cook County through The Partnership's network, fostering a more inclusive economy by linking residents with quality careers and employers with skilled, diverse talent.

In 2023, the program held **seven events, drawing over 1,000 job seekers and nearly 130 employers** from various industries, offering numerous career opportunities.

Cook County
**CAREER
CONNECTOR** 
Connecting Talent & Employers



Working to Ensure Career Accessibility: Career Pathway Navigators

In 2023, The Partnership and Cook County launched the Cook County Career Pathways Navigator program to support special populations, such as individuals with disabilities, economically disadvantaged families, homeless individuals, authorized refugees, and returning residents, by connecting them with organizations to assist in their career journeys. The Partnership also featured the program on its podcast Hire Frequency, interviewing a professional with a disability and his employer.

Over Program Year 2023, Cook County Career Pathway Navigators **received nearly 600 service referrals (incoming); more than 700 individuals were referred to AJCs for support and more than 5,400 residents** received outreach about the program at AJCs through hiring events, email, and social media impressions.

The Road Home During Program Year 2023

96 Participants enrolled in employment services

53 Participants enrolled in On-the-Job Training

34 Participants received an Industry Recognized Credential

46 Participants who began an internship

49 Participants enrolled in employment services who transitioned to unsubsidized employment

Reimagining The Road Home for Returning Residents

In early 2022, in partnership with Cook County's Justice Advisory Council, The Partnership launched the Reentry Navigation Initiative: The Road Home, a 34-month project supporting individuals returning to Cook County from Illinois' correctional facilities.

Through Cook County's ARPA funds, the program expanded to assist more returning citizens facing employment challenges. In April 2023, during Second Chance Month, County Board President Toni Preckwinkle announced the program's growth, with federal funding increasing from \$450,000 to \$1 million in 2024. This expansion helps participants in suburban Cook County by offering navigation, career coaching, training, support services, and paid work experience, with a focus on workforce development, training, and permanent job placement



Reimagining Partnering with Employers in High-Demand, High-Growth Sectors

Working with Employer Partners

The Partnership takes an industry-centered, demand-driven approach to workforce development rooted in the region's seven high-growth, high-demand sectors:



Manufacturing



Healthcare



**Transportation,
Distribution,
& Logistics**



**Information
Technology**



**Construction/
Skilled Trades**



**Hospitality
& Tourism**



High-Growth, High-Demand Sector Centers

To further support the region's employers, The Partnership created four industry Sector Centers to meet employer needs through access to federally funded resources.

The sectors include:

- Healthcare
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Information Technology
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

The Sector Centers deliver recruitment and retention services to employers.

These services include but are not limited to:

- Coordinating recruitment events for large or small hiring needs.
- Promoting work-based learning, such as apprenticeship programs that provide new skills to entry-level employees to increase employee retention.
- Providing applicant pre-screening services to ensure a business is presented with a qualified talent pool from which to choose potential employees.
- Implementing train-to-hire initiatives to create a pipeline of pre-trained new hires who are ready to "hit the ground running" and enhance employer services.
- Working with employers to create customized training plans and develop innovative programs for current employees and new hires.
- Connecting employers to tax incentives and training reimbursement grants to create cost savings that can be reinvested in a business.





ConstructionWorks Success Story:

Martivez P. enrolled in ConstructionWorks in July 2023 and joined Awaken Foundation's pre-apprenticeship program, earning OSHA 10, CPR, and NCCER credentials. During training, he received gas cards for transportation support. Now employed, he is a member of LiUNA Local 32. Martivez shared that "the training was a huge help" and was thankful he discovered the program.



Spotlight:

Construction Sector

The Partnership collaborates with the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (The Tollway) to recruit and place individuals in the construction sector. ConstructionWorks, powered by The Tollway and managed by The Partnership, is a free program focused on diversity, preparing underrepresented groups, such as minorities, women, and veterans, for apprenticeships and training that lead to rewarding careers in construction.

Since 2018, **the program has enrolled over 1,200 participants**, with more than 200 entering construction training and nearly 140 completing it. More than 200 participants have joined unions, and 439 have secured jobs in construction, including 72 on Tollway contracts.

Spotlight:

The Partnership's Healthcare Sector Center and Northwestern Medicine

In February 2024, Northwestern Medicine awarded The Partnership **a \$50,000 grant to support its workforce development programs** across Cook County and Chicago. This collaboration includes assistance from The Partnership's Healthcare Sector Center, managed by Equus Workforce Solutions.

The Partnership and its agencies have placed more than 70 residents in careers with Northwestern Medicine, with 18 participating in an On-The-Job Training program through the Healthcare Sector Center. These roles include Patient Access Specialist, Patient Care Technician, Clinical Lab Assistant, Environmental Services staff, Patient Escort, and Housekeeping.



Spotlight:

The Partnership's Information Technology Sector Center and Techapalooza

Three times a year, The Partnership's IT Sector Center hosts Techapalooza, a job and resource fair. It connects employers and resource providers with qualified job seekers to share career opportunities, discuss industry trends, and offer services.



Success Story

Andrew B. met representatives from The Partnership's IT Sector Center at a job fair. He enrolled in and completed WIOA-funded career training, receiving support with resume building and job search tools. Now, Andrew works full-time as a Civil Service IT Technical Associate at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Spotlight:

The Partnership's Hospitality & Tourism Sector Center

Hospitality Hires Chicago 2024

In April 2024, **60 employers and hundreds of career seekers attended the 7th annual Hospitality Hires Chicago** at The Palmer House Hotel, hosted by The Partnership and event sponsors. Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, and other community leaders were present. The event's theme, *Hospitality is a State of Mind*, highlighted transferable skills and career growth possibilities in the industry. **Employers conducted on-the-spot interviews with 400 attendees, with over a third receiving conditional offers.**

Sponsors included the Chicago Loop Alliance, Choose Chicago, City of Chicago, Cook County, Illinois Hotel and Lodging Association, Illinois Restaurant Association, The Magnificent Mile Association, Near South Planning Board, and The Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership.



Hospitality Hires North

The Partnership and event sponsors hosted the inaugural Hospitality Hires North on May 29, 2024, at the Hilton Orrington/Evanston in Evanston, Illinois. The theme, *Hospitality is a State of Mind*, highlighted the sector's upward mobility potential. **Employers from accommodations, restaurants, transportation, healthcare, and childcare conducted over 200 on-the-spot interviews.** Over 85% of attendees said the event flow exceeded expectations, and 97% would recommend it to others.

Sponsors included Cook County Tourism Alive, Chicago's North Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau, Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association, Illinois Restaurant Association, Cook County Career Connector, and Illinois Department of Employment Security.





The Network at Work:

The Calumet Area Industrial Commission's Level Up Bridge Program Powers Up Careers in the Electric Vehicle Industry

Alejandro H. (pictured above on the right) joined a three-week Level Up Bridge Program after losing his job while supporting a family of five. With seven years of experience in manufacturing and warehouse operations, he enrolled in a CAIC program through The Partnership's network to enhance his skills. In May, **he began a new role as an Electric Assembler at Goti High-Tech, earning \$24 per hour.** This position provides financial stability and opportunities for growth within the organization.

Spotlight:

Manufacturing Sector

Illinois is home to over 14,000 manufacturers employing more than 735,000 workers, making it one of the largest industrial states in the U.S. Nearly half of the Chicago region's manufacturing jobs are in Cook County, with 16% in Chicago. Last year, manufacturers posted over 45,000 jobs in Cook County. **The Partnership placed nearly 500 career seekers in manufacturing roles, averaging over \$23.46 per hour.** It also funds On-the-Job Training (OJT) and Incumbent Worker Training, **collaborating with more than 150 employers to train 250 employees. Mondelez International, a global snack food leader, received over \$100,000 in OJT funds locally.** The Partnership celebrated Manufacturing Month in October with partners and employers.





Spotlight:

Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics Sector

Employment in the TDL sector continues to grow, driven by rising e-commerce, infrastructure investments, and expansion. The Partnership is dedicated to ensuring historically underrepresented communities are included in the industry. In 2023, The Partnership's **TDL Sector Center engaged over 120 employers and generated more than 700 job orders.** Operated by the YWCA, the Center hosted more than 30 regional hiring events and supported candidates through 16 On-the-Job Training projects.

Success Story:

Stacy B. faced several challenges earning his Commercial Driver's License (CDL). After his school closed for eight weeks, he failed the test three times without a refresher and had to wait 30 days to retest. Just as he was ready, a fractured hand from basketball delayed him further. With support from The Partnership network and E&ES Career Coach Shenika B., Stacy persisted and earned his CDL.





Partnership Financial Information

Financials

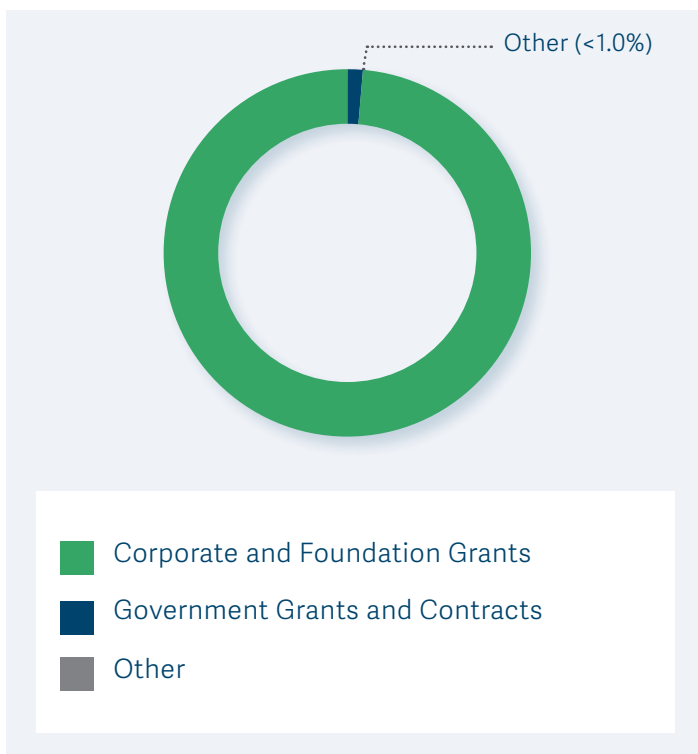
FOR THE PROGRAM YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

Revenue	
Corporate and Foundation Grants	\$ 78,507,276
Government Grants and Contracts	\$ 1,406,913
Other	\$ 109,353
Total	\$ 80,023,542

Expenses	
Program Services	\$ 80,550,243
Management and General	\$ 44,354
Fundraising	\$ 8,742
Total	\$ 80,603,069

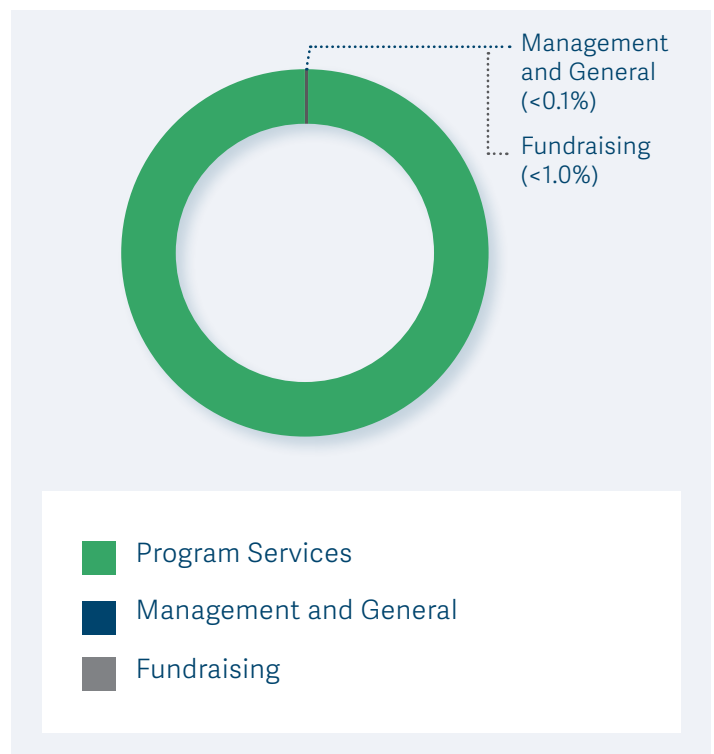
Revenue

FOR THE PROGRAM YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024



Expenses

FOR THE PROGRAM YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024





Partnership Financial Information (continued)

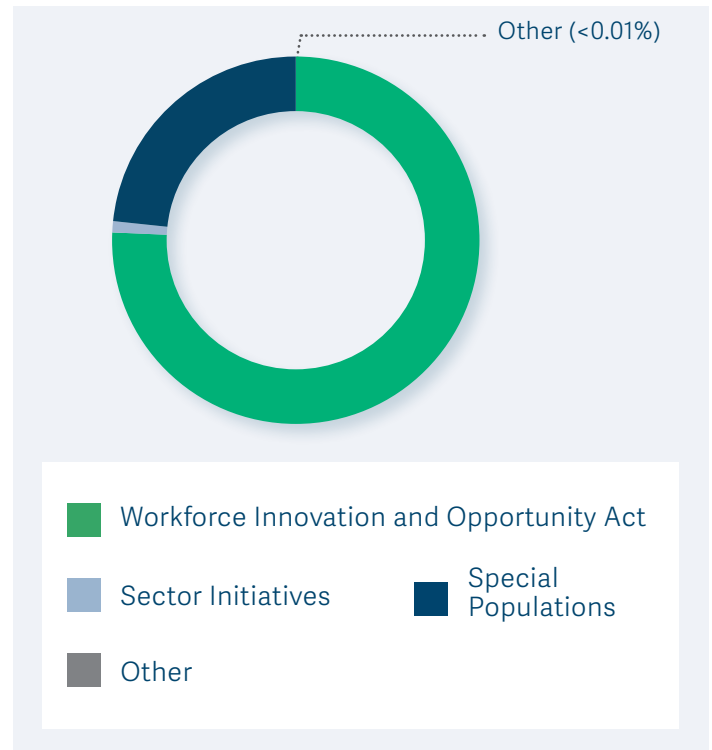
Program Expenses

BY AREA

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act	\$ 60,999,662
Sector Initiatives	\$ 671,904
Special Populations	\$ 18,878,677
Workforce Demonstrations Pilot	\$ 52,826
Total	\$ 80,603,069

Program Expenses

BY AREA



Organizations in The Partnership's Network

- AERO SPECIAL EDUCATION
- ALLIANCE CARE 360 (BROTHERS HEALTH COLLECTIVE)
- ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL NETWORK
- ASIAN HUMAN SERVICES
- ASSOCIATION HOUSE
- BEDS
- BETHEL FAMILY
- BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF CHICAGO
- BRIDGES FROM SCHOOL TO WORK (MARRIOTT)
- BUSINESS AND CAREER SERVICES
- CALUMET AREA
- CALUMET AREA - CAREER PATHWAY
- CENTER FOR NEW HORIZONS
- CENTRAL STATES - HEALY
- CENTRAL STATES - SER
- CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR
- CHICAGO WOMEN IN TRADES
- CHINESE AMERICAN SERVICE LEAGUE
- COOK COUNTY BUREAU OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- CRUDUP CONSTRUCTION
- DESI INC. WASHINGTON HEIGHTS WORKFORCE CENTER
- ELGIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
- EMPLOYER & EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
- EQUUS/RESCARE
- FOODHERO
- GOODWILL
- GREATER WEST TOWN PROJECT
- HABILITATIVE SYSTEMS, INC
- HEALTH & MEDICINE POLICY RESEARCH GROUP
- JANE ADDAMS
- KLEO COMMUNITY FAMILY LIFE CENTER
- KRA
- LADSE
- LAWRENCE HALL
- LISC
- MAINE TOWNSHIP
- MANUFACTURING RENAISSANCE
- METROPOLITAN FAMILY SERVICES
- MIDWEST BUSINESS CONSULTING
- MORAIN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
- NATIONAL ABLE
- NEW MOMS
- NORTH LAWNSDALE EMPLOYMENT NETWORK
- OAI INC
- OLIVE HARVEY
- P33
- PHALANX FAMILY SERVICES
- POLISH AMERICAN
- PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE
- PROVISIO LEYDEN COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY ACTION (PLCCA)
- PUERTO RICAN CULTURAL CENTER
- PYRAMID
- REVOLUTION
- SAFER FOUNDATION
- SCALELIT (CHICAGO CITYWIDE)
- SERCO
- SGA YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES
- SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE
- ST. PAUL CHURCH OF GOD
- ST. SABINA EMPLOYMENT RESOURCE CENTER
- SYMBOL TRAINING
- THE CABET GROUP
- THE RESURRECTION PROJECT
- TOWNSHIP H.S. DIST. 214
- UCAN
- WOMEN EMPLOYED
- WORLD BUSINESS CHICAGO
- XD TECH
- YOUTH CONNECTION CHARTER
- YOUTH GUIDANCE
- YOUTH JOB CENTER OF EVANSTON
- YWCA

