

Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership Network Success Stories
Workforce Development Month
September 2026



Janiyah W. — Healthcare



Program Funding Source: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Janiyah W. knew she wanted a career in the medical field. She enrolled in the Job Readiness Training through **Metropolitan Family Services**, a member of The Partnership's network, and gained skills and knowledge in interview prep, resume writing, job search assistance, and financial literacy.

She later attended **Chicago Community Learning Center (CCLC)** where she was trained and received her training certificate for patient care technician.

Janiyah worked as a Pharmacy Tech for Walgreens and is now working at Ingles Hospital.

Ruben A. — Manufacturing



Program Funding Source: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

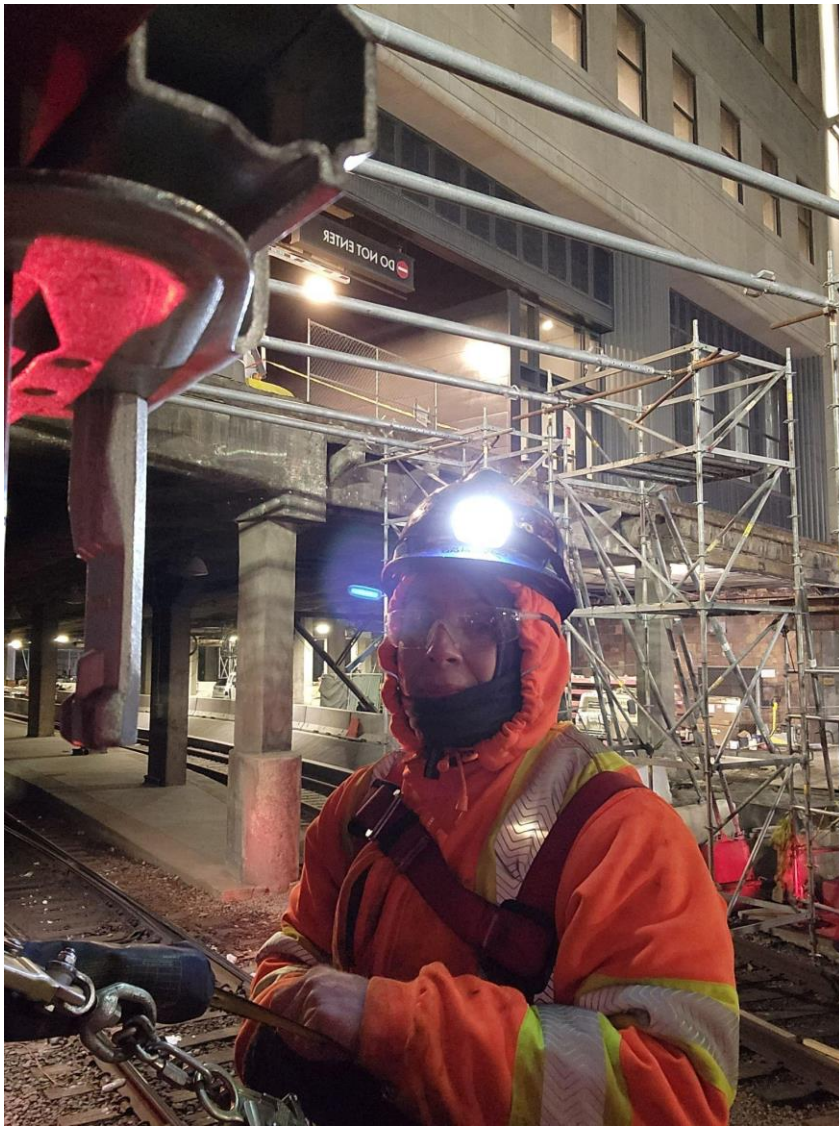
Ruben A. wanted more than informal learning. He wanted a solid technical foundation and a credential he could carry anywhere.

For years, he worked as a machine operator in the food industry. He understood machines well, but had never received formal Computer Numerical Control (CNC) training. That's why he enrolled in the CNC Program at **Jane Addams Resource Corporation (JARC)**, a member of the Partner's network.

JARC's support extended beyond technical instruction. Ruben received transportation assistance, participated in mock interviews, and received personalized resume guidance. He completed 13 employment coaching sessions, two financial coaching sessions, and received income support. He also attended eight workshops on finance, banking, and budgeting.

In his own words: When Ruben talks about his journey into CNC machining, one word comes up again and again: “opportunity.” And he says, “The most valuable thing is that you’re training on real machines,”

Edith G. — Construction



Program Funder: Illinois Tollway

Edith G. was ready to take the next step in her construction career. Through **ConstructionWorks**, powered by the **Illinois Tollway**, and **Midwest Business Consulting**, a member of the Partnership's network, she earned her Construction Safety Administrator Certificate Course. Since May 2026, Edith has been a Field Construction Safety Manager with Waubonsee Development Company.

In her own words: "My experience with ConstructionWorks has been incredibly positive. They've supported me in updating my resume and connecting with real job opportunities in my field. My case manager has been especially helpful, always responsive, encouraging, and genuinely invested in my success. Their guidance has made a real difference in my career journey."

Malik C.—Green Energy and Construction



Program Funding Source: Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)

Malik C. is currently deciding between several job offers — and he credits **OAI, Inc.**, a member of the Partnership’s network, for helping him get here.

In his own words: “First and foremost, I want to give a special thanks to OAI for the positive backing of my dream and moral support. They have helped me learn solar, and they’ve also helped me get my foot in the door within the construction field. Same time last year I was in my last pre-apprenticeship and fighting a case. Fast forward a year later and on track to graduate another training program with multiple job offers on the line.”

Shalynn P. –Information Technology



Program Funding Source: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

After more than a year of unemployment, was referred to **The Partnership’s Information Technology IT Sector Center, operated by National Able Network**, to strengthen her skills and reenter the workforce. Through utilizing WIOA funding, she earned her ITIL 4 Foundations certification and received ongoing career coaching and interview preparation support. Following multiple interviews and perseverance throughout her job search, Shalynn secured a position as a Data Functional Specialist

with Central Management Systems. She now earns a salary with a comprehensive benefits package. Shalynn's success highlights how industry recognized credentials and strong employer partnerships can create pathways to sustaining careers in the technology sector.

Gabriella R.—Music Education and Career



Program Funding Source: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
Supplemental Funding

When Gabriella R. joined the JumpStart Youth Program **with Maine Township District 207**, a member of The Partnership's network, she showed basic skills deficiency and financial need.

When she started the program, she had not worked in over a year. She completed paid work experience in the Main Kitchen of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital to build her resume. Her long-term goal for education was to attend Columbia College as a music major. However, after graduating from high school her family moved, and that combined

with financial barriers made her education goal harder to achieve.

With assistance from her Career Advisor, she secured a position at Amazon. She also shifted her goals and found a more attainable college campus for her post-secondary education at a different school and. With the assistance from the JumpStart Youth Program, Gabriella started attending classes in a music program in Spring 2026.

In her own words: “JumpStart really woke me up! I was in such a daze where I was expecting everybody to do everything for me. JumpStart taught me how to advocate for myself and how to navigate the college process and after high school world. “