# Introduction to the Illinois Workforce Investment Systems

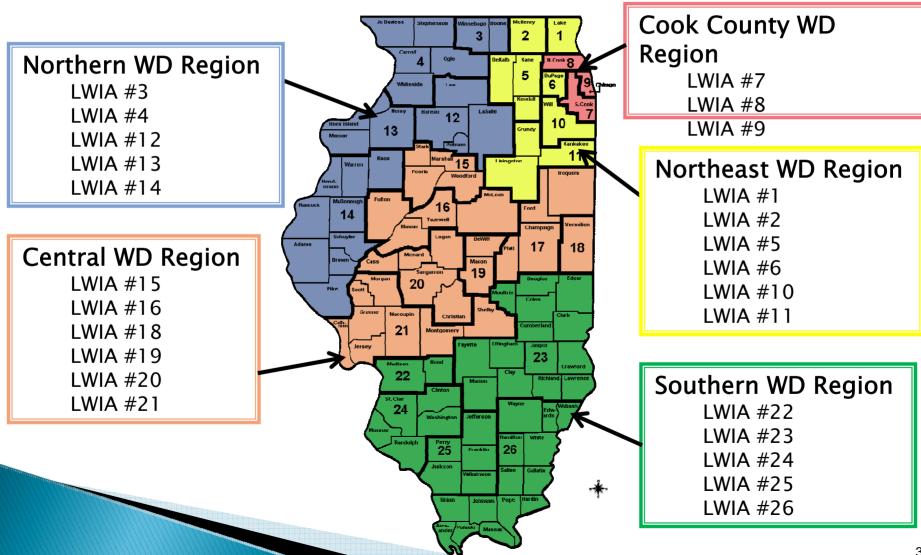
Julio Rodriguez - Director of Program Services

D.O.L Discretionary Grants Meeting

### Today's Agenda

- Local Workforce Investment Areas Overview
- Workforce Investment Act Mandatory Partners
- Illinois workNet Centers & Partner Sites
- Non-WIA Partners
- Illinois workNet Portal
- Key Sectors Overview
- Illinois' Critical Skill Shortages Initiative (CSSI)
- DCEO Bureau of Workforce Development ARRA Activities and Priorities
- Summary of Key Steps to Engage State and Local Systems

### Local Workforce Investment **Areas Overview**



# Workforce Investment Act Mandatory Partners

- Workforce Investment Act Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth, Job Corps, Native American, and Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker programs
- Wagner-Peyser Act/Employment Services programs
- Title II Adult Education and Literacy programs
- Title I Rehabilitation Act programs
- Title V Older American Act programs
- Vocational Education programs

- Title II Trade Act/NAFTA programs
- Chapter 41 Title 38 Veterans programs
- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) programs
- HUD Employment and Training programs
- State Unemployment Compensation programs
- TANF Employment and Training programs
- Food Stamp Employment and Training programs

<sup>\*</sup> The State of Illinois requires the TANF and FSET be Mandatory WIA Partners

### Illinois workNet Centers & Partner Sites

The map below contains all active sites within the Illinois Workforce Investment Areas.

Illinois workNet Centers are the state's comprehensive centers and provide convenient locations where individuals who need personalized assistance or training, or who do not have access to the Internet, can receive services. Access/
Dissemination Sites have public access to computers.

There are 395 active "Access" (Resource Room) sites across the state.



Comprehensive centers are in orange.



Illinois workNet Satellites are in green.



### Illinois workNet ™Portal



Illinois workNet<sup>™</sup> is the state's primary employment and training resource for workforce development.

The Illinois workNet Portal (<a href="www.illinoisworknet.com">www.illinoisworknet.com</a> ) offers unique features, such as locally and geographically tailored information that benefits individuals, businesses and workforce professionals. Seamless access to third-party tools, including occupational and labor market information, resume building, interest inventories, job postings and training programs, ensures ease of use and minimizes redundant systems. The portal supports the use of assistive technologies, meets Illinois Information Technology Accessibility Act requirements, and offers four pathways to information.

- 1. **Individuals** Learn about careers; prepare for and find jobs; connect to education and training; identify work support services, such as child care and health care; and find economic recovery information and guidance for laid off workers. This pathway is also available in Spanish.
- 2. **Businesses** Connect to recruitment, employee training, economic recovery and business development resources.
- 3. **Workforce professionals/educators** Access online training and integration resources to enhance services.
- 4. **Key sectors** Highlights career pathways, job postings and openings, regional economic snapshots, and training programs in Illinois' key sectors.

# Illinois workNet ™ Recent Milestones and Activities

- **Expanded partnerships** Approximately 611 Illinois workNet Partner sites have been established. These include comprehensive Illinois workNet Centers, satellite sites, community-based organizations, education entities, social service agencies, and other non-traditional partners.
- Online professional training Online, short-term courses and training webinars prepare workforce professionals to use the portal with their non-WIA partners. Currently, there are 1631 Certified Illinois workNet Advisors.
- Rebranded workforce system A rebranding/marketing strategy has been implemented to create an identifiable brand and increase access to services offered through Illinois workNet Centers and the portal. Signage has been replaced statewide, and marketing materials have been developed.
- Assistance for laid off workers Provides individuals affected by a job layoff with guidance to achieve re-employment goals, using a series of interactive icons, short videos and next steps. This also includes company-specific layoff information aimed at guiding dislocated workers to available resources.

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# Illinois workNet TM & Recent Milestones and Activities

- **Business Layoffs and Closings Interactive Map** Uses interactive maps to provide local and state staff with user-friendly information concerning layoffs and closings.
- **Economic Recovery** A discussion board provides real-time questions and answers to help implement workforce-funded recovery programs. Development of an economic recovery projects map is underway, and will help to meet key transparency and accountability requirements.
- ▶ Green Jobs (COMING SOON!) This page will provide information on the green jobs definition to be used in Illinois, occupational and training information, and related resources.
- Summer Youth Program Activity (COMING SOON!) Youth will complete online activities introducing them to career exploration, resume writing, job searching, and interviewing for a job.

### **Non-Traditional WIA Partners**

#### Legend:

Comprehensive One Stop Faith Based Organization

**LIB** Library

**COM** Community Center Educational Entity

\$66 Secial Service Agencies

**CBO** Community Based Organization

PRIV Private Sector

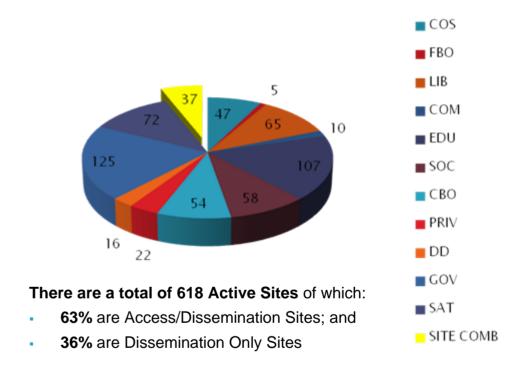
Digital Divide Grant Recipient

**SAT** Satellite

**GOV** State/Lecal Government Agency

A Access/Dissemination Sites

D Dissemination Only Site



Access/Dissemination Sites have public access to computers. Dissemination Only Sites provide some type of public service but no access to computers and disseminate Illinois workNet information to their customers.

Many partner sites are multi-purposed and have been accounted for under the Site Combinations tab. **Site combinations (37)** accounts for the various combinations of the partner categories identified.

### **Key Sectors Overview**









**Key Sectors in Illinois include**: Health Care, Manufacturing, Information Technology, Transportation/Distribution/Logistics.

### Key Sectors share the following characteristics:

- They offer career pathways with good wages.
- Each industry is experiencing a shortage of workers.
- Businesses need human capital of Illinois' workforce to succeed.
- Training is available.

### Illinois' Critical Skill Shortages Initiative CSSI

- Illinois' Critical Skill Shortages Initiative has served over 4,500 employees since it was launched in 2003, preparing them for critical shortage occupations in the demand sectors of Health Care; Manufacturing; and Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics.
- An interim evaluation concluded that CSSI successfully targeted investments at critical skill shortage occupations.
- CSSI laid the foundation for regional sector strategies in Illinois by encouraging local workforce and economic development professionals, the K-12 and post-secondary education communities and key private stakeholders to work cooperatively to address the root causes of skilled worker shortages.
- One of the major goals of CSSI was realigning workforce programs to train skilled workers in key sectors.
- The number of WIA Adult, Dislocated, and Youth enrollees in CSSI programs was significant enough to realign WIA workforce programs to focus on shortage occupations within the state's key sectors. This realignment helped CSSI meet its goal.

# Illinois' Critical Skill Shortages Initiative CSSI Activity by Type

#### **CSSI Quick Facts:**

- Over 3,700 individuals participated in nearly 90 projects.
- Of which 900 people were WIA registrants; and
- 2,800 were Incumbent Workers.
- 2,300 people served in the Health Care sector
- 1,300 served in Manufacturing and TDL sectors

Table 1 CSSI Activity by Type	PY2003	PY2004	PY2005	PY2006	Total
Health Care IWDS	-	117	350	95	562
Manufacturing & TDL IWDS	-	-	138	259	397
Subtotal WIA Enrollees	-	117	488	354	959
Health Care Incumbent	21	423	979	288	1,711
Manufacturing & TDL Incumbent	-	-	433	653	1,086
Subtotal Incumbent Workers	21	423	1,412	941	2,797
TOTAL	21	540	1,900	1,295	3,756

#### **Major Objective**

Prevent dislocation, address short-term needs and shortages, and position the state for post-recovery growth in key sectors by accelerating investment in the skills of Illinois workers.

#### **Approach**

- Partner with industry organizations and employers and education and training providers to utilize incumbent, customized, OJT, and class-sized training mechanisms to accelerate training and provide transitional employment opportunities for workers while in training where possible.
- State funds will be targeted to incumbent worker training because of current limitations in the use of LWIA funds for incumbent worker training.
- DCEO will work with LWIAs to coordinate state and local accelerated pre-employment training in targeted sectors.
- In addition, Illinois will use regular state WIA funds to expand access to sector-based bridge programs to provide opportunities for low-skilled workers to access accelerated training opportunities in the targeted key sectors.
- This will be done through the Shifting Gears initiative.

#### **Health Care**

- Improving Health Care and Preventing Dislocation -Invest in incumbent worker training to support efforts by hospitals to improve quality and patient safety and reduce costs as well as improve the working conditions of front-line health care workers.
- Upgrading Front-Line Health Care Workers -Partner with health care employers and organizations to provide incumbent worker training funding to upgrade existing front-line workers in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and home health care to fill critical high-demand skilled allied health care positions.
- Conversion to Electronic Medical Records -Work with health care employers and organizations to upgrade and retrain health care workers (e.g., medical records clerks, medical billing and coding) to effectively use electronic health care records to improve quality and safety and reduce costs in health care services.
- Nursing Programs Work with the Illinois Center for Nursing and other state agency partners to update nursing shortage estimates in all regions and provide funding to increase the number of nurses entering and remaining in health care employment.

#### Manufacturing

- Improving Competitiveness and Preventing Dislocation -Work with ETIP to invest in incumbent worker training to support Illinois manufacturers who are retraining workers to remain more competitive and fill critical shortages in skilled positions.
- Manufacturing Training Programs -Work with IDES and industry associations to update CSSI shortage estimates (e.g., machining, welding, industrial maintenance) in all regions and provide funding to industry-led projects.

#### **Transportation and Logistics**

- Improving Competitiveness and Preventing Dislocation -Work with industry associations to conduct outreach to employers and identify opportunities to invest in incumbent worker training to support Illinois transportation and logistics companies who are training workers to remain more competitive and fill critical shortages in skilled positions.
- Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics Training Programs -Work with IDES and industry associations to update CSSI shortage estimates (e.g., machining, welding, industrial maintenance) in all regions and provide funding to industry-led projects.

#### **Green Initiatives**

- <u>Define Green Industries and Occupations</u> -Work with IDES and other state agencies to define those industries and occupations which are critical to green-related economic development efforts and opportunities in Illinois.
- Green Training Programs -Invest in innovative green training programs targeted at identified industries and occupations.

# Summary of Key Steps to Engaging State and Local Systems

- 1.) Engage the Local Workforce Investment Board and Title I WIA Providers in the design of the proposal.
- 2.) Look at gaps your program may fill, or see how the program proposed can expand the system.
- 3.) Once you have been notified of findings, re-engage local and state workforce partners to plan the implementation of the project.