

IMPACT STATEMENT

PROGRAM YEAR 2020 – 07/01/2020-06/30/2021

The Lake County Workforce Development Board is a workforce development leader in the county, region, and state. The Workforce Board collaborates with key partners and stakeholders to lead performance-driven and innovative strategies that develop, align, and integrate the workforce development system.



LAKE COUNTY STATS



Location: Northeastern Illinois

Population: 714,342 (U.S. Census Bureau; April 1, 2020)

Unemployment: 5.5% (IDES; June 30, 2021)

Employers: home to 12 Fortune 500 companies (Fortune; June 2021)



BUSINESSES

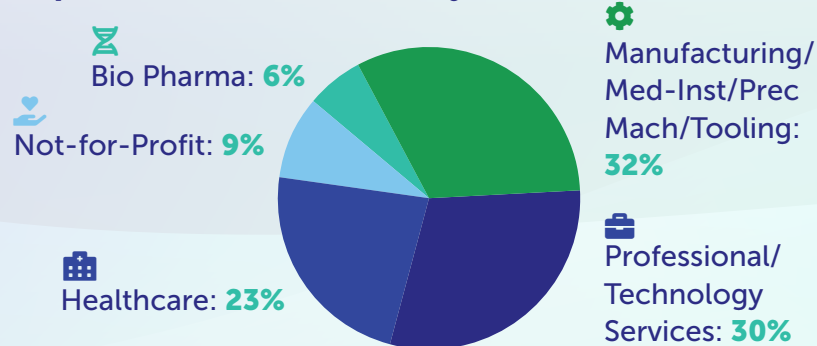
Businesses Served: 477

Layoff Prevention: \$124K

Incumbent Worker Training (IWT): \$143K

On-the-Job Trainings & Work Experiences: 54

Top 5 Industries in Lake County:



JOB SEEKERS

Employment Services: 2,295

Credential Attainment: 565

Obtained Employment: 305

Wages Earned by Program Completers: \$6.2M

JOB CENTER TRAFFIC:

10K+ Participants

Incoming Calls - 5,087

On-Site Visitors - 1,314

Applications for Training - 1,028

Layoff Events - 2,605

Virtual Workshops - 557

SUCCESS STORIES

Employer – Abbott Laboratories

Abbott Laboratories, a multinational biopharmaceutical company, connected with Lake County Workforce Development regarding its staffing needs. The company had been working closely with U.S. federal and state authorities as well as customers in urgent care clinics, hospital emergency departments, and physicians to ensure rapid portable COVID-19 testing kits were produced in a timely fashion.

Abbott Laboratories collaborated with Lake County Workforce Development, the College of Lake County, Lake County Partners, Illinois Department of Employment Security, and Manpower to tap into the vast resources of the Eco-System to address the 2,000 jobs made available due to the national dependency on testing kits being made at their newly renovated facility in Gurnee. With the assistance of the Eco-System, a drive-thru job fair was held, 1,000 direct mailers went out to Lake County residents, a promotional video was created, and flyers and text messages were sent to job seekers.

“Great job by Lake County Workforce Development and many thanks for such fantastic engagement,” said Vildan Kehr, Abbott Laboratories Divisional Vice President of Global Talent Acquisition.

Job Seeker – Monique

During the pandemic, the Job Center of Lake County closed to the public. Working remotely, Business Service team members from Lake County Workforce Development continued to connect job seekers and businesses.

When Monique was furloughed from a position with a transportation company due to COVID-19, she wanted to find another job quickly. She saw the layoff as an opportunity to advance in her career. Monique also knew where to seek help. When she was laid off several years earlier, she received job search assistance and support from Lake County Workforce Development. When she notified her Workforce contacts that she was once again seeking a job, a Business Service Representative forwarded her resume to Fidelitone. As a supply chain management firm, Fidelitone was classified as an essential employer and remained open during the pandemic. Monique interviewed and was hired as a Dispatcher. In her new job, she communicates with drivers, installers, and warehouse personnel on a daily basis. Monique describes her work environment as energizing and says that the new position gives her financial security and personal satisfaction.

Youth – Work Readiness Bootcamp

The Lake County Workforce Development Board has sponsored a Summer Youth Employment Program for many years; however, the pandemic made it difficult to place young people at work sites. In lieu of this popular program, the Board instead approved a two-week Work Readiness Bootcamp to educate participants about qualities that will make an employee stand out at work, common expectations from employers, tools that will help individuals land a job, and provided an introduction to labor market information.

More than 80 high school students participated in the Bootcamp and each student was eligible to earn a stipend of up to \$500 for their active participation. For many of the participants, this was their first exposure to work expectations. The interactive format included activities and games that encouraged students to express their opinions and to practice discussing their skills in front of an online group.

One of the youth participants summarized the value of the event by stating, “When I apply to a job I already have the steps to get hired, and thanks to the Bootcamp I will get hired.”

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