



## LCWD Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

### Workforce Development

September 25, 2025, at 8:00 AM

College of Lake County

Room A103

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- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Public Comment**
- III. **Chair Report**
- IV. **Workforce Development Month Recognition** Attachment A
- V. **Consent Agenda**
- a. Approval of June 2025 LCWD Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
[Attachment B](#)
  - b. Approval to accept the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) PY25 WIOA Apprenticeship Expansion Grant in the amount of \$275,000.  
[Attachment C](#)
  - c. Approval to accept the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) PY25 WIOA Rapid Response Grant in the amount of \$350,000.  
[Attachment D](#)
  - d. Approval to accept the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Program Year 2025 Supplemental Grant in the amount of \$232,774.  
[Attachment E](#)
  - e. Approval to renew the subrecipient agreement with the College of Lake County (CLC) for the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) Workforce Hub Grant in the amount of \$2,750,000.  
[Attachment F](#)
  - f. Approval of revisions to the [Job Center of Lake County Memorandum of Understanding](#).  
[Attachment G](#)
- VI. **Other Business/Updates**
- a. Budget & Financial Updates
  - b. Funding Updates
  - c. Strategic Discussion
- Presentation:** Cristo Rey
- The Cristo Rey Network will present their nationally recognized school-to-career model, highlighting opportunities for youth. The presentation will focus on:
- Employer partnerships that connect students to meaningful first jobs
  - Equity-driven strategies that expand access and opportunity
  - The long-term role of early work experiences in career success
- VII. **Member Time**
- VIII. **Adjournment**



**SPECIAL RECOGNITION HONORING SEPTEMBER 2025 AS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Workforce Development Month was created in 2005 by the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) to raise awareness about the importance of the industry to growing a national economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the complexity and fast-paced changes in our economy and labor markets put new demands on individuals and employers at all levels to constantly evolve; and

**WHEREAS**, employers depend on professional employment services to help them recruit and retain a competitive workforce, and continually upgrade the skill sets of their employees; and

**WHEREAS**, Lake County Workforce Development is recognized as a high-performing and innovative leader, implementing change and driving results through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act by partnering with government agencies, businesses, training and education providers, and communities to develop comprehensive workforce solutions; and

**WHEREAS**, Workforce Development has been instrumental in creating a system that successfully delivers programs and services that expand access to career pathways and quality jobs for the underserved while providing industries and small businesses access to talent and employee re-training, and forward-looking workforce strategies that keep Lake County competitive in a rapidly changing economy.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RECOGNIZED**, by this County Board of Lake County, Illinois, that September 2025 is Workforce Development Month in Lake County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RECOGNIZED**, that the County Board is committed to supporting Workforce Development in expanding access to economic opportunities to strengthen the growth of Lake County and joins NAWDP in honoring and thanking all Workforce Development organizations for playing such a vital role in our economy and improving lives.

**DATED** at Waukegan, Illinois, on September 9, 2025.

Sandy Hart, Chair  
Lake County Board, District 13



**LCWD Board of Directors Meeting Minutes****Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 8:00 AM****College of Lake County – Grayslake Campus****Room C106**

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**Present:** John Castillo, Timothy Dempsey, Carrie Espinosa, Yvette Ewing, Christian Fernandez, Josh Fischer, Ed Gallagher, Christine Hammerlund, Jennifer Harris, Lisa Johnson, Dennis Kessler, Noelle Kischer-Lepper, Rachel Loberg, Troy McIntosh, Kathy Nellis, Dr. Darryl Rader, Dr. Carlotta Roman, Mary Ross-Cunningham, Carla Schroeder, Jennifer Serino, Tasha Shell, Quinton Snodgrass, Dr. Lori Suddick, Ken Swanson, Amy VanStrien, Kimberly Wimer

**Absent:** Kevin Considine, Laura Crivlare, Marcus Jordan, Dr. Michael Karner, Sara Knizhnik, Julie Savitt, Dr. Andrew Warrington

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**I. Call to Order..... Kimberly Wimer, Chairwoman**

*The meeting was called to order on **Thursday, June 26, at 8:06 AM** by Chairwoman Kimberly Wimer.*

**II. Public Comment**

*No public comments were made.*

**III. Chairman's Report.....**

*Chairwoman Kimberly Wimer delivered her final report, reflecting on her three years of service. She expressed sincere appreciation for the Board's support and recognized the Workforce Development staff for their commitment and responsiveness to change. Chairwoman Wimer emphasized the Board's accomplishments during her tenure and formally passed leadership to the incoming Chair, Dr. Carlotta Roman, and Vice Chair, Josh Fischer. The Board unanimously approved their appointments.*

**IV. Consent Agenda**

*The Board approved the following items:*

- *April 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes*
- *Memorandum of Understanding*
- *Quest Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant*

**V. Action Items**

- *Approval of the PY25 WIOA Grant Budget, which reflects a 24% funding increase. The budget includes*

*strategic investments in youth engagement, apprenticeship, incumbent worker training, and professional development initiatives.*

## **VI. Regular Agenda**

- **Leadership Recognition**

- i. *The Board formally recognized Chairwoman Kimberly Wimer for her outstanding leadership and contributions over the past three years. Her commitment to innovation, inclusive governance, financial sustainability, and strategic growth were acknowledged and applauded.*

- **Presentation: Parent Mentor and Paraprofessional Program**

- i. *A collaborative presentation was delivered by United Way Lake County and HACES (Hispanic American Community Education Services), highlighting the success of the Parent Mentor and Paraprofessional Program.*
  - ii. *Key Highlights:*
    - 1. *The partnership between United Way, HACES, and Waukegan Public School District aims to improve parent engagement, particularly among underrepresented communities.*
    - 2. *The program recruits, trains, and supports parents to serve as classroom mentors. Mentors receive professional development, stipends, and opportunities to advance their careers.*
    - 3. *Since inception, the program has impacted over 1,000 students across six schools, with plans to expand to eight schools in the upcoming year.*
    - 4. *United Way has invested over \$130,000 and contributed strategic resources in literacy and emotional development.*
    - 5. *Workforce Development's involvement has strengthened funding pathways and career pipelines for participants.*
    - 6. *A parent mentor, Adriana Ocampo, shared a personal testimony on how the program transformed her confidence, skills, and career aspirations.*
    - 7. *The program received the **Excellence in Collaboration Award** at the Illinois Workforce Summit.*

- **Youth Apprenticeship Recognition**

- i. *The Board celebrated the successful completion of the Youth Development Practitioner Apprenticeship Program. Of the 19 apprentices who enrolled, 15 graduated, including 2 staff members from Lake County Workforce Development.*

- **Budget Priorities Discussion**

- i. *Lake County Workforce Development Director Jennifer Serino presented the PY25 budget priorities, emphasizing alignment with community needs, expanded employer partnerships, innovation, and enhanced visibility. Key initiatives include:*
    - 1. *Strategic reserve of \$656,000 to support future innovation*
    - 2. *Expansion of in-school youth programs and employer-driven training*
    - 3. *Increased engagement in apprenticeship and incumbent worker training*

4. *Greater investment in professional development, communications, and partnership-building*

VII. **Announcements**

- *The Summer Youth Employment Program successfully launched with 170 high school students placed at 40 work sites. Over 1,000 applications were received.*
- *The Manufacturing Alliance is currently hiring for a Director.*
- *The Board is exploring the use of Microsoft Teams as a centralized portal for document sharing and collaboration.*
- *No committee meetings are expected in July due t lack of voting business.*

VIII. **Updates/Other Items**

- *The Job Center continues to process approximately 15,000 applications annually.*
- *Workforce Development is actively seeking new funding streams beyond federal sources, focusing on sustainability and cross-sector partnerships.*
- *The Board praised the team’s strategic agility and intentional alignment of resources to emerging workforce trends, including AI, youth programming, and employer engagement.*
- *Members expressed interest in exploring deeper ecosystem metrics and shared data frameworks, such as ALCIE data, to measure long-term impact.*

IX. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at **9:36 AM**.



## Lake County Workforce Development Board September 2025

### **Subject:**

Apprenticeship Expansion Grant – Program Year 2025

### **Action:**

Approval to accept the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) PY25 WIOA Apprenticeship Expansion Grant in the amount of \$275,000.

### **Background:**

Lake County Workforce Development (LCWD), in partnership with the McHenry County Workforce Network, received \$275,000 from DCEO under WIOA Notice 24-NOT-01 to implement the PY25 Apprenticeship Illinois initiative.

This initiative supports the development of industry-led workforce solutions by expanding registered apprenticeship pathways in high-growth sectors such as healthcare, education, and social services, collectively known as the care economy. The program enhances regional system coordination and employer engagement to promote apprenticeship as a sustainable workforce strategy.

A grant-funded Apprenticeship Specialist will be deployed across Lake and McHenry Counties to accelerate employer outreach, apprenticeship pathway development, and training-provider coordination. This grant provides for the hiring of an additional Apprenticeship Specialist with a focus on the Care Economy.

### **Grant Details:**

- **Funding Source:** US DOL WIO Funding
- **Grant Period:** July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
- **Grant Amount:** \$275,000
- **Expected Outcomes:**
  - Expand access to Registered Apprenticeships
  - Strengthen employer and training provider partnerships
  - Advance equitable pathways into high-demand careers

### **Strategic Alignment:**

This grant directly supports the LCWDB strategic imperatives:

- Innovative workforce solutions (apprenticeships, WEL, IWT)
- Industry sector work
- Career pathways for high school students
- Access to sustainable, high-wage employment opportunities



## Lake County Workforce Development Board September 2025

### **Subject:**

PY25 WIOA Rapid Response Grant

### **Action:**

Approval to accept the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) PY25 WIOA Rapid Response Grant in the amount of \$350,000.

### **Background:**

Lake County Workforce Development received a WIOA Rapid Response Grant in the amount of \$350,000 from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

This funding supports dislocated workers affected by layoffs, WARN events, and economic disruption. It also provides resources for implementing innovative workforce strategies that accelerate recovery and promote long-term employment outcomes. Key components include expanded outreach, use of AI-powered digital tools, and strong employer engagement to address labor market disruptions.

### **Grant Details:**

- **Funding Source:** US DOL WIOA Dislocated Worker
- **Grant Period:** June 1, 2025 – December 31, 2026
- **Grant Amount:** \$350,000
- **Expected Outcomes:**
  - Serve 28 dislocated workers with intensive services and training
  - Reach 300 individuals through outreach and engagement
  - Engage 75 businesses in reemployment and workforce strategies
  - Expand Job Center access via community-based kiosks
  - Utilize AI and digital tools for customized participant support
  - Deliver short-term training, OJT, and paid work experiences
  - Host listening sessions and professional development for staff

### **Strategic Alignment:**

This grant directly supports the LCWDB strategic imperatives:

- Innovative workforce solutions during economic disruption
- Strengthening employer-led partnerships
- Supporting rapid reemployment and recovery
- Addressing regional workforce needs in high-demand sectors





## Lake County Workforce Development Board September 2025

### **Subject:**

PY25 Supplemental Grant

### **Action:**

Approval to accept the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Program Year 2025 Supplemental Grant in the amount of \$232,774.

### **Background:**

Lake County Workforce Development received \$232,774 through the PY25 Supplemental Grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

This funding supports the implementation of equity-driven strategies outlined in Illinois' WIOA Unified State Plan and aims to improve employment outcomes for underserved and priority populations. The initiative includes targeted outreach, youth engagement, and the development of cross-agency partnerships to deliver integrated services and reduce systemic barriers to employment.

### **Grant Details:**

- **Funding Source:** Illinois DCEO
- **Grant Period:** July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
- **Grant Amount:** \$232,774
- **Funding Streams:** \$117,322 (Youth), \$115,453 (Adult)
- **Expected Outcomes:**
  - Targeted outreach and recruitment of youth with barriers to employment
  - Development of cross-agency partnerships to deliver integrated services
  - Enhanced access to career coaching, training, and support services

### **Strategic Alignment:**

This grant directly supports the LCWDB strategic imperatives:

- Equity, inclusion, and workforce innovation
- Career pathways for high school students and youth with barriers
- Access to supportive services including transportation and technology
- Cross-system collaboration for resource maximization





## Lake County Workforce Development Board September 2025

### **Subject:**

PY25 CEJA Workforce Hub Grant – Subrecipient Agreement with College of Lake County

### **Action:**

Approval to renew the subrecipient agreement with the College of Lake County (CLC) for the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) Workforce Hub Grant in the amount of \$2,750,000.

### **Background:**

The College of Lake County was awarded the second year of funding for the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's CEJA Workforce Hub Grant for Program Year 2025. The College of Lake County is renewing the subrecipient agreement with Workforce Development for a total budget of \$2,750,000.

### **Grant Details:**

- **Funding Source:** College of Lake County CEJA Workforce Hub Grant with Illinois DCEO
- **Grant Period:** July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
- **Grant Amount:** \$2,750,000
- **Expected Outcomes:**
  - Expand access to clean energy career pathways
  - Provide credential-based and pre-apprenticeship training
  - Deliver supportive services such as transportation and technology
  - Engage employers and unions to expand apprenticeship and hiring opportunities
  - Host job fairs, forums, and hiring events to support workforce connection

### **Strategic Alignment:**

This grant directly supports the LCWDB strategic imperatives:

- Create a culture of equitable prosperity
- Strengthen employer-led partnerships
- Expand workforce access for underrepresented communities
- Prepare for emerging high-growth industries



## Lake County Workforce Development Board Executive Committee - August 2025

**Subject:**

Job Center of Lake County MOU Update

**Action:**

Approval of the updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Local Workforce Innovation Area (LWIA) 1.

**Background:**

Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), each Local Workforce Innovation Area (LWIA) is required to maintain an up-to-date Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with all required partners. The MOU defines the roles, responsibilities, referral processes, and cost-sharing agreements that support the operation of the Job Center of Lake County.

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), acting as the state workforce agency, issued a letter directing LWIA 1 to **remove Job Corps as a partner** in the local MOU. This directive is based on federal guidance that Job Corps no longer falls under the category of mandatory one-stop partners.

**Strategic Alignment:**

Approval of the updated MOU ensures compliance with WIOA requirements, reflects current federal and state guidance, and maintains the board's commitment to an integrated, customer-focused workforce system.

**Strategic Alignment:**

Approval of the updated MOU ensures compliance with WIOA requirements, reflects current federal and state guidance, and maintains the board's commitment to an integrated, customer-focused workforce system.

**Links to the Updated MOU, Budget and Cover Page**

- [Updated Memorandum of Understanding](#)
- [Updated MOU Budget](#)
- [Mou Update Cover Page](#)