

LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 8:15 AM

Job Center of Lake County

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- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Public Comment**
- III. **Chair Report**
- IV. **Consent Agenda**
  - a. April 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes [Attachment A](#)
  - b. May 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes [Attachment B](#)
- V. **Regular Business (ACTION ITEMS)**
  - a. Approve the Program Year 26 WIOA Formula Grant Budget and Participant Plan for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth. [Attachment C](#)
  - b. Authorize Workforce Development to negotiate renewals with 160 Driving Academy and Youth Conservation Corps based on performance, continuing service need, and availability of WIOA out-of-school youth funds. [Attachment D](#)
  - c. Approve Community Capacity Building Pilot Projects as a workforce strategy to expand service capacity, strengthen community and employer partnerships, and support Board-aligned priorities. Pilot agreements would be developed within established funding parameters, with individual agreements not to exceed \$50,000 and total pilot authority not to exceed \$200,000. [Attachment E](#)
  - d. Approve the creation of a Youth and Young Adult Workforce Advisory Group to support the Board's youth and young adult workforce strategy. [Attachment F](#)
  - e. Authorize acceptance of WIOA Rapid Response Grant, in the amount of \$440,000 for the grant period of April 1, 2026, through December 30, 2027. [Attachment G](#)
  - f. Approve the Nominating Committee's recommended Slate of Officers for PY'26. [Attachment H](#)
- VI. **Other Business / Updates**
  - a. Federal and State Updates
- VII. **Member Time**
- VIII. **Adjournment**

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**LCWD Board of Directors Meeting**

- Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 8:00 AM, CLC – Grayslake Campus – **Room C106**

**LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting**

- Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 8:15 AM, Job Center of Lake County

**LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 8:15 AM**  
**Job Center of Lake County**

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**Present:** Timothy Dempsey, Josh Fischer, Jennifer Harris (Zoom), Marcus Jordan, Dr. Michael Karner (Zoom), Dennis Kessler (Zoom), Dr. Carlotta Roman, Jennifer Serino, Dr. Lori Suddick (Proxy – Ali O’Brien), Dr. Andrew Warrington

**Absent:** Kevin Considine, Laura Crivlare-Maglio, Ed Gallagher, Mary Ross-Cunningham, Kimberly Wimer

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**I. Call to Order..... Chairwoman, Dr. Carlotta Roman**

*The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 8:20 AM by Executive Committee Chairwoman Dr. Carlotta Roman.*

**II. Public Comment**

*No public comments were made.*

**III. Chair Report**

*Chairwoman Dr. Roman reflected on the recent Workforce Impact Awards, highlighting strong attendance, engagement from partners, employers, and the community, and the meaningful impact of participant success stories. The event showcased achievements across workforce programs, including youth initiatives and employer partnerships, and received positive feedback with interest in continuing the event annually.*

*It was also noted that Dr. Lori Suddick will be resigning from the College of Lake County, and appreciation was expressed for her leadership and partnership. Continued collaboration with the College was emphasized despite the leadership transition.*

**IV. Consent Agenda**

- a. *February 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes*

- b. *Approve revisions to Policy 22: Employer Incentives – Apprenticeships to maintain an ongoing local policy framework for employer incentive payments under the Apprenticeship Illinois Expansion Grant.*
  - i. *Motion to approve: Marcus Jordan*
  - ii. *Motion seconded: Timothy Dempsey*
  - iii. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**V. Regular Business (ACTION ITEMS)**

- a. *Approve the 2026 modification to the Local and Regional Plans for 2024–2028 for Local Workforce Innovation Area 1, including Chapters 1–3 Regional Components and Chapters 4–6 Local Components, and authorize staff to submit the approved modification package to the State of Illinois in accordance with WIOA and Illinois planning guidance.*
  - i. *Motion to approve: Timothy Dempsey*
  - ii. *Motion seconded: Dr. Andrew Warrington*
  - iii. *Motion carried unanimously.*
- b. *Approve the Program Year 2026 Memorandum of Understanding and cost sharing agreement for the Job Center of Lake County.*
  - i. *Motion to approve: Dr. Andrew Warrington*
  - ii. *Motion seconded: Marcus Jordan*
  - iii. *Motion was approved with one abstention - Dr. Suddick (Proxy Ali O’Brien) with the College of Lake County.*
- c. *Approve the selection of a One-Stop Operator for the Job Center of Lake County through the completed competitive procurement process and authorize Workforce Development to finalize and execute an agreement for One-Stop Operator services for a three-year term in an amount not to exceed \$46,455 annually.*
  - i. *Motion to approve: Marcus Jordan*
  - ii. *Motions seconded: Timothy Dempsey*
  - iii. *Motion carried unanimously.*
- d. *Authorize Workforce Development to negotiate Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) In-School Youth Career Readiness and Work-Based Learning agreements with the following entities selected through an RFP process: Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep, Lake County Regional Office of Education, North Chicago Community Unit School District 187,*

*and Grayslake Community High School District 127, in amounts not to exceed \$138,000 each.*

- i. Motion to approve: Marcus Jordan*
  - ii. Motion seconded: Dr. Andrew Warrington*
  - iii. Motion carried with one abstention - Dr. Michael Karner with the Lake County Regional Office of Education.*
- e. Authorize Workforce Development to negotiate renewals with the Lake Zurich Area Chamber of Commerce and the Green Oaks, Libertyville, Mundelein, Vernon Hills Chamber of Commerce, in amounts not to exceed \$75,000 each, based on performance and available funds.*
- i. Motion to approve: Timothy Dempsey*
  - ii. Motion seconded: Dr. Andrew Warrington*
  - iii. Motion carried unanimously.*

## **VI. Strategic Focus**

- a. The Committee engaged in an in-depth strategic discussion focused on strengthening the workforce system through:*
  - i. **Employer Engagement** - Members discussed the importance of deepening relationships with employers to better understand hiring needs, skills gaps, and evolving workforce demands. Emphasis was placed on:*
    - 1. Building long-term employer partnerships rather than transactional engagement*
    - 2. Increasing employer participation in workforce programming*
    - 3. Leveraging employer input to shape training and talent development strategies*
  - ii. **Industry Sector Partnerships** - Discussion also centered on enhancing sector-based approaches to workforce development by:*
    - 1. Aligning training programs with high-demand industries*
    - 2. Coordinating efforts across education, workforce, and economic development partners*
    - 3. Creating clearer pathways for job seekers into priority sectors*

- b. *Members emphasized the need for stronger alignment across committees to support these priorities and ensure measurable outcomes tied to employment, retention, and career advancement.*

## **VII. Other Business / Updates**

- a. **NAWB Forum Recap** – *DJ Newport shared key takeaways from the National Association of Workforce Boards Forum, including emerging national trends, innovative workforce strategies, and opportunities to apply best practices locally. Topics included employer-driven models, sector partnerships, and the evolving role of workforce boards.*
- b. **Illinois Workforce Partnership / Association** – *Jennifer Serino shared an update on the transition from a partnership model to a more formal statewide workforce association. This includes the development of a structured membership model and increased focus on statewide advocacy and legislative engagement.*
- c. **Lake County Workforce Ecosystem / Lake County Workforce Collaborative** – *Ongoing work to strengthen the local workforce ecosystem was discussed, including efforts to align workforce, education, and economic development partners through the Lake County Workforce Collaborative. This includes shared goals, coordinated strategies, and improved measurement of collective impact.*
- d. **DCEO Monitoring & Lake County Single Audit** – *Updates were provided regarding recent monitoring activities conducted by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), as well as the status of the Lake County single audit. No major findings or concerns were reported at this time.*
- e. **State and Federal Updates** - *General updates were shared regarding workforce-related developments at the state and federal levels, including funding outlooks, policy considerations, and emerging priorities that may impact local workforce programming.*

## **VIII. Member Time**

- a. *A reminder regarding the upcoming **Lake County Partners “Big Event,”** highlighting its importance for regional collaboration and economic development engagement.*

## **IX. Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM.*

**Upcoming Meetings:**

***LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting***

- *Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 8:15 AM*
- *Job Center of Lake County*

***LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting***

- *Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 8:15 AM*
- *Job Center of Lake County*

***LCWD Board of Directors Meeting***

- *Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 8:00 AM*
- *College of Lake County – Grayslake Campus (Room C106)*

**LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 8:15 AM**

**Zoom**

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**Present:** *Timothy Dempsey, Josh Fischer, Ed Gallagher, Jennfier Harris, Marcus Jordan, Dr. Michael Karner, Dennis Kessler, Dr. Carlotta Roman, Jennifer Serino, Dr. Andrew Warrington, Kimberly Wimer*

**Absent:** *Kevin Considine, Laura Crivlare-Maglio, Mary Ross-Cunningham*

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**I. Call to Order..... Chairwoman, Dr. Carlotta Roman**

*The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 8:19 AM by Executive Committee Chairwoman Dr. Carlotta Roman.*

**II. Public Comment**

*No public comments were made.*

**III. Chair Report**

*No formal Chair Report was provided. Prior to the start of the meeting, Jennifer Serino shared information regarding the State of Illinois' upcoming implementation of a new workforce case management and performance management system, IWDS 2.0, scheduled to launch July 1, 2026. Discussion focused on the anticipated impact on participant enrollment service delivery, employer engagement, and staff training. Members discussed the transition to a more customer-driven process and the importance of supporting customers as they navigate the new system.*

**IV. Business**

**a. PY'26 Allocations**

- i. Staff presented the Program Year 2026 WIOA formula allocations. Total funding for PY26 is \$6,864,406, representing a decrease of approximately 19% from PY25.*

*Funding allocations include:*

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1. Youth: \$1,996,598
  2. Adult: \$1,836,588
  3. Dislocated Worker: \$3,031,220
- ii. Discussion focused on planning strategies to manage reduced funding levels while maintaining service delivery, training investments, and work-based learning opportunities. Staff reviewed required expenditure thresholds and compliance requirements associated with each funding stream.

**b. Strategies and Budget**

- i. Staff reviewed budget planning efforts and funding projections for the upcoming program year. Discussion included anticipated grant funding, staffing considerations, and strategies to align available resources with Board priorities.
- ii. Updates were provided on:
  1. Apprenticeship funding opportunities
  2. CEJA program continuation
  3. Summer Youth Employment Program funding
  4. SkillBridge initiatives
  5. County-supported workforce investments
- iii. Staff discussed efforts to secure additional funding to expand youth employment opportunities, particularly for older youth transitioning from high school into employment.

**c. Apprenticeship Grant**

- i. Staff reported that the Apprenticeship Grant application had recently been submitted. The proposed grant includes funding for staffing, employer incentives, and expanded apprenticeship opportunities through a regional partnership with McHenry County Workforce Network.
- ii. Discussion focused on strengthening apprenticeship pathways and increasing employer participation in work-based learning opportunities.

**d. CEJA Renewal**

- i. Staff provided an update on the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) program renewal. The renewal request maintains current funding levels and program structure while continuing to support workforce development activities related to clean energy career pathways.

- ii. *Members discussed continued demand for training and employment opportunities within the clean energy sector and the importance of sustaining services for participants seeking careers in emerging industries.*

**e. WIOA Opportunity Youth Contract Performance & Status**

- i. *Staff presented performance and fiscal updates for Opportunity Youth providers and recommendations regarding contract renewals.*

**1. 160 Driving Academy**

- a. *Met enrollment, skills gain, and credential attainment benchmarks.*
- b. *Employment outcomes remain below target and will continue to be monitored.*
- c. *Renewal recommended for PY27.*

**2. Youth Conservation Corps**

- a. *Met enrollment expectations and exceeded benchmark requirements for skills gains and credentials.*
- b. *Renewal recommended for PY27.*

**3. SGA Youth & Family Services**

- a. *Documented enrollment and service activity but did not meet performance benchmarks related to skills gains, credentials, or employment outcomes.*
- b. *Staff recommended that the contract not be renewed beyond June 30, 2026.*
- c. *Discussion focused on participant transition planning, closeout activities, and performance accountability.*

**V. Strategic Focus**

**a. Committee Action Plans**

- i. *Committee members reviewed progress and priorities associated with each standing committee.*

**1. Operations Committee**

- a. *Discussion focused on digital literacy, participant access to technology, and operational strategies that support service delivery across the workforce system.*

## **2. Talent Pipeline Committee**

- a. Members discussed efforts to strengthen career pathways, youth engagement, employer partnerships, and educational alignment.*

## **3. Employer Connections Committee**

- a. Discussion centered on industry sector partnerships, employer engagement strategies, work-based learning opportunities, and efforts to align workforce programs with employer needs.*
- b. Committee members emphasized the importance of maintaining alignment among committee priorities and ensuring that committee activities support the Board's overall strategic direction.*

### **b. Board Consultant Update**

- i. Staff provided an update regarding ongoing work with the Board consultant. Discussion focused on governance, strategic planning, committee effectiveness, performance measurement, and opportunities to strengthen Board engagement in advancing workforce system goals.*

## **VI. Other Business / Updates**

- a. Staff provided updates regarding:*
  - i. State workforce system changes and implementation of the new case management platform.*
  - ii. Pending grant opportunities and funding applications.*
  - iii. Workforce trends and labor market conditions.*
  - iv. Ongoing efforts related to digital literacy, AI readiness, and workforce innovation initiatives.*
  - v. Preparations for upcoming Board and Committee meetings.*
- b. Discussion also included continued collaboration with Deloitte regarding artificial intelligence and the integration of AI literacy into workforce programming and digital literacy initiatives.*

## **VII. Member Time**

- a. Nothing was shared during this meeting.*

## **VIII. Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 AM.*

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

#### ***LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting***

- *Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 8:15 AM*

#### ***LCWD Board of Directors Meeting***

- *Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 8:15 AM*

## Program Year 2026 WIOA Formula Grant Budgets

### Action

Approve the Program Year 26 WIOA Formula Grant Budgets for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth.

### WIOA PY26 Title 1 Allocations

The state of Illinois has issued WIOA Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Activities Program Allocations for Program Year 2026 (PY26) beginning July 1, 2026. Lake County is receiving a total allocation in the amount of \$6,864,406.

Funding Type	PY'26 WIOA Allocations	Administration (10% Maximum)	Programs (Minimum)	Compliance 20% Work-Based Learning	Compliance 50% Training*
Youth	\$1,996,598	\$199,660	\$1,796,938	\$359,387	
Adult	\$1,836,588	\$183,659	\$1,652,929		\$826,465
Dislocated Worker	\$3,031,220	\$303,122	\$2,728,098		\$1,364,049
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,864,406</b>	<b>\$686,441</b>	<b>\$6,177,965</b>	<b>\$359,387</b>	<b>\$2,190,514</b>

WIOA Program Year 2026 federal appropriations:

- PY 2026 Youth Activities funds available for obligation on April 1, 2025
- PY 2026 WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker funds are in two separate appropriations.
  - The first appropriations for the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs become available for obligation on July 1, 2026; this portion is commonly referred to as “base” funds.
  - The second appropriations for the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs become available for obligation on October 1, 2026; this portion is commonly referred to as “advance” funds because they are provided in the appropriations act passed during the fiscal year immediately before the fiscal year when the funds are available.

WIOA Funding Type	PY22 Allocation	PY23 Allocation	PY24 Allocation	PY25 Allocation	PY26 Allocation	Year over Year Change
Youth	1,509,995	1,593,336	2,075,004	2,569,497	1,996,598	(\$572,899)
Adult	1,426,583	1,480,014	1,934,313	2,412,417	1,836,588	(\$575,829)
Dislocated Worker	1,807,372	2,018,277	2,838,556	3,534,877	3,031,220	(\$503,657)
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,743,950</b>	<b>5,091,627</b>	<b>6,847,873</b>	<b>8,516,791</b>	<b>6,864,406</b>	<b>(\$1,652,385)</b>

Total year-over-year decrease from PY25 to PY26: \$1,652,385 (19%).

## Opportunity Youth Grant Renewals

### ACTION ITEM

Approve the renewal of Opportunity Youth service agreements with 160 Driving Academy and Youth Conservation Corps based on performance, continuing service need, and availability of WIOA out-of-school youth funds.

### Renewal Summary

Provider	Renewal Term	Year 1 Funding	Year 2 Funding	Year 1 Performance Target	Year 1 Performance Target
160 Driving Academy	July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028	\$128,571.30	\$128,571.30	18	18
Youth Conservation Corps	July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028	\$127,200.00	\$127,200.00	18	18

### INCLUDED DOCUMENTS

- [Original Request for Proposals \(2024\)](#)
- [Youth Contractor Performance Summary](#)

### BACKGROUND

160 Driving Academy and Youth Conservation Corps are recommended for renewal of their out-of-school youth agreements to continue training, work-based learning, credential attainment, and related services for eligible youth in Lake County.

During the current grant period, both providers delivered services supported through WIOA out-of-school youth funding. Renewal is recommended based on current provider performance, financial status, service activity, continuing youth workforce needs, and the importance of maintaining access to training and employment pathways for out-of-school youth.

The attached Youth Contractor Performance Summary provides current results, expenditure status, renewal amounts, renewal terms, and staff analysis for Board review.

This action approves renewal agreements with both providers based on performance and availability of WIOA out-of-school youth funds.

### STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This action supports the Board's commitment to strengthening youth career pathways, expanding work-based learning, supporting credential attainment, and ensuring accountability for public investment.

Continuing these partnerships helps maintain access to employment and training opportunities for out-of-school youth while supporting the Board's broader talent pipeline and workforce development goals.



## **Community Capacity Building Pilot Projects**

### **Action Requested**

Approve Community Capacity Building Pilot Projects as a workforce strategy to expand service capacity, strengthen community and employer partnerships, and support Board-aligned priorities. Pilot agreements would be developed within established funding parameters, with individual agreements not to exceed \$50,000 and total pilot authority not to exceed \$200,000.

### **Background**

Lake County Workforce Development is advancing opportunities to expand the reach and impact of workforce services through targeted pilot partnerships with community organizations, educational institutions, industry intermediaries, and employer-serving entities.

These pilot projects are intended to strengthen community-based capacity, support industry sector partnerships, expand work-based learning opportunities, increase small business engagement, and create more accessible entry points into workforce services for priority populations and communities.

This approach allows LCWD to respond to emerging workforce needs, test promising strategies with trusted partners, and build scalable models that can inform future committee and Board discussions. It also positions the Board to see how targeted investments are being used to advance strategic priorities beyond traditional program delivery.

### **Strategic Alignment**

These pilot projects directly support the Board's strategic plan by creating new ways to connect residents, employers, education partners, and community organizations around shared workforce needs. The work is intended to strengthen career pathways, expand access to services, support employer-led solutions, and help the Board test approaches that can grow into longer-term workforce strategies.



## **Youth and Young Adult Advisory**

### **Action**

Approve the creation of a Youth and Young Adult Workforce Advisory Group to support the Board's youth and young adult workforce strategy.

### **Background**

The Lake County Workforce Development Board continues to prioritize strategies that strengthen the connection between education, workforce development, employers, and young adults entering the workforce. As workforce needs continue to evolve, there is an opportunity to create a dedicated forum focused on youth and young adult workforce issues, emerging trends, career pathway development, work-based learning, and employer engagement.

The advisory group will help bring together perspectives from workforce, education, business, and community partners to identify opportunities, share best practices, and inform future workforce strategies that support both young adults and employers. The group will also serve as a resource to the Board as it continues to advance talent pipeline initiatives and long-term workforce development goals.

### **Strategic Alignment**

This action supports the Board's commitment to developing a strong future workforce by strengthening talent pipelines, expanding career-connected learning opportunities, and fostering collaboration between employers, education partners, and community organizations. The advisory group will help inform strategies that prepare young people for success while supporting the workforce needs of Lake County businesses.

## **WIOA Rapid Response/1E Grant**

### **ACTION ITEM**

Authorize acceptance of WIOA Rapid Response Grant, in the amount of \$440,000 for the grant period of April 1, 2026, through December 30, 2027.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity awards Rapid Response funding to support local workforce areas in planning for and responding to layoffs, dislocations, and related workforce disruption. Lake County Workforce Development receives this grant to respond to recent dislocation events in Lake County while also strengthening digital workforce capacity.

The initiative is structured as a coordinated service model that responds to layoffs and workforce disruption while also strengthening digital workforce capacity in Lake County. In addition to direct employment and training services for dislocated workers, the grant supports Digital Career Services for residents and Digital Literacy and Artificial Intelligence resources for local businesses. Participants can earn digital certificates, receive laptop technology, and access industry-recognized credentials intended to support employability and career advancement.

The initiative directly serves 25 dislocated workers through employment and training services, provides Digital Career Services to 125 residents, and supports 20 businesses with Digital Literacy and Artificial Intelligence resources. A central component of the grant is the implementation of localized Digital Skills Bootcamps using the NorthStar Digital Literacy Curriculum.

The grant supports occupational skills training and upskilling, work-based learning opportunities including on-the-job training, supportive services, personnel and program administration costs, and related program costs needed to implement and monitor grant activities.

The grant responds to workforce disruption associated with the following employers and industries: Smurfit Westrock, NSI Industries / Remke Industries, Capital One, Walgreens, Discover Financial Services, and Consolidated Hospital Supplies.

### **STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT**

This grant supports the Board's role in responding to workforce disruption, strengthening reemployment strategies for dislocated workers, and advancing employer and resident digital skill development in response to changing workforce needs.

## **Program Year 2026 Slate Of Officers**

*The Slate as recommended by the Nomination Committee:*

- Dr. Carlotta Roman, Chair
- Josh Fischer, Vice-Chair

An opportunity is available for other Board Members to be nominated from the floor at the Board of Directors Meeting on June 25, 2026, for consideration.

The term of office begins July 1, 2026.