

LCWDB Employer Connections Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 9:00 AM

Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85987647693?pwd=fNxHaVThY5U5dTduFRaYpxfy0Cugua.1&from=addon>

I. Call to Order

II. Public Comment

III. Chair Report

IV. Consent Agenda

- a. May 2026 Employer Connections Committee Meeting Minutes [Attachment A](#)

V. Regular Business

- a. Workforce Board Committee Governance and Membership
- b. Business Services Team PY25 Fourth Quarter Report [Attachment B](#)

VI. Strategic Focus & Action Plan

- a. Industry Sector Partnerships
 - i. Employer Led Training and Talent Development
 - ii. Apprenticeship Expansion
 - iii. Communication and Messaging
 - 1. July Focus Group Review [Attachment C](#)
 - a. Pat Davis Design Website Statistics
 - b. AI Tools – Search Engines – Social Media - Website

VII. Other Business / Updates

- a. CEJA Job Fair & Panel Discussion on Friday, August 28th, at 8:30 AM
- b. 8th Annual Disability Job Fair on Thursday, September 10th, at 12:00 PM
- c. Hire Lake County Job Fair on Friday, October 2, at 11:00 AM
- d. Illinois Workforce Association 1st Annual Conference on Tuesday, October 6th and Wednesday, October 7th
- e. Navig8 Lake County on Tuesday, October 20th, at 7:30 AM

VIII. Member Time

IX. Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings:

LCWD Board of Directors Meeting

- Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 8:00 AM

LCWD Employer Connections Committee Meeting Minutes**Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 9:00 AM****Zoom**

Present: Carolyn Corcoran, Steve DeBretto, Carrie Espinosa, Antonio Garcia, Myra Gaytan-Morales, DeMar Harris, Dennis Kessler, Eva Locke, Amy Maksudian, Sarah Mitial, Dr. Carlotta Roman, Julie Savitt, Jennifer Serino, Quinton Snodgrass, Daron Terfehn, Kimberly Wimer

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

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 9:01 AM by Employer Connections Committee Chairwoman Kimberly Wimer.

II. Chair Report

Committee Chairwoman Kimberly Wimer welcomed members and emphasized the importance of continued employer engagement and industry collaboration in strengthening Lake County's workforce system. Discussion focused on the role of the Employer Connections Committee in supporting employer-informed workforce strategies, strengthening sector partnerships, and aligning workforce investments with regional labor market demand.

The Chair also acknowledged ongoing collaboration between employers, workforce partners, educational institutions, and community organizations to support talent development and long-term economic growth across Lake County.

III. Strategic Focus

a. Industry Sector Partnerships / Labor Market Data Discussion

i. The committee engaged in discussion surrounding labor market trends and workforce needs within the following sectors:

- 1. Manufacturing*
- 2. Healthcare & Care Economy*
- 3. Clean Energy*

- ii. *Discussion focused on employer demand, workforce shortages, emerging occupations, and evolving skill requirements across industries. Members discussed the importance of aligning workforce strategies and training investments with current and projected labor market needs.*

b. Workforce Development Data & Outcome Review

- i. *Staff reviewed workforce development performance data and outcomes related to:*
 - 1. *Manufacturing*
 - 2. *Healthcare & Care Economy*
 - 3. *Clean Energy*
- ii. *Discussion included participant outcomes, employer engagement metrics, work-based learning participation, and the importance of data-informed decision-making to support future workforce strategies.*

c. Workforce Development Incumbent Worker Report

- i. *Updates were provided regarding incumbent worker training activities and employer participation. Members discussed the importance of supporting existing workers through upskilling and retraining opportunities to help employers remain competitive and retain talent.*

d. Work-Based Learning & Apprenticeship Strategies

- i. *The committee discussed strategies to expand:*
 - 1. *Apprenticeships*
 - 2. *Internships*
 - 3. *Work-based learning opportunities*
 - 4. *Employer-led training models*
- ii. *Discussion emphasized creating stronger connections between high schools, training providers, and employers to support career pathway development and hands-on learning experiences.*

e. Workforce Impact Awards Breakfast Recognized Employers

- i. *LCWD team members highlighted employers recognized during the Workforce Impact Breakfast and discussed the importance of celebrating employer partnerships and workforce leadership throughout Lake County.*

IV. Action Plan

a. Identify Core Group of Industry Sector Partners to React to Strategies and KPIs

- i. Members discussed identifying key employer and industry representatives to support strategy development, review workforce metrics, and provide ongoing feedback regarding workforce priorities.*

b. Construct a Roadmap of Employer Training Grants

- i. Discussion focused on creating a clearer roadmap and communication strategy for employer training grants and workforce funding opportunities available to businesses.*

c. Design Work-Based Learning and Apprenticeship Programs: High School to Employer

- i. The committee discussed opportunities to strengthen connections between secondary education and employers through structured work-based learning and apprenticeship models.*

d. Develop and Execute Communication Strategies to Increase Employer Engagement in the System

- i. Members discussed the importance of improving employer outreach, communication, and awareness of workforce services, grants, and partnership opportunities available through the workforce system.*

V. Other Business / Updates

a. Artificial Intelligence & The Lake County Workforce

- i. LCWD team members shared updates regarding artificial intelligence and its growing impact on workforce development, employer expectations, and future workforce needs within Lake County. Discussion included the importance of preparing businesses and job seekers for technology-driven changes across industries.*

b. Workforce Development Quarterly Business Services Report

- i. LCWD team members reviewed the Quarterly Business Services Report, highlighting employer engagement activities, business outreach efforts, sector partnership development, and workforce service outcomes.*

c. Workforce Impact Awards – Opportunity Gateway

- i. LCWD team members highlighted employers recognized during the Workforce Impact Breakfast and discussed the importance of celebrating employer partnerships and workforce leadership throughout Lake County.*

VI. Member Time

- a. No announcements from members at this meeting.*

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 AM.

Upcoming Meetings:

LCWD Board of Directors Meeting

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

LCWDB Employer Connections Committee Meeting

- Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 9:00 AM



BUSINESS SERVICES

Program Year 2025
Apr-Jun 2026



PY25
Q4

PREPARED BY
Jeffrey Hubert

BUSINESS UNIT
Business Services

OUR WEBSITE
<https://www.lakecountyl.gov/170/Businesses>



Lake County Workforce Development



Executive summary

PY25 - Q4

1134

Companies Reached

1948

Job Fair Attendance

92

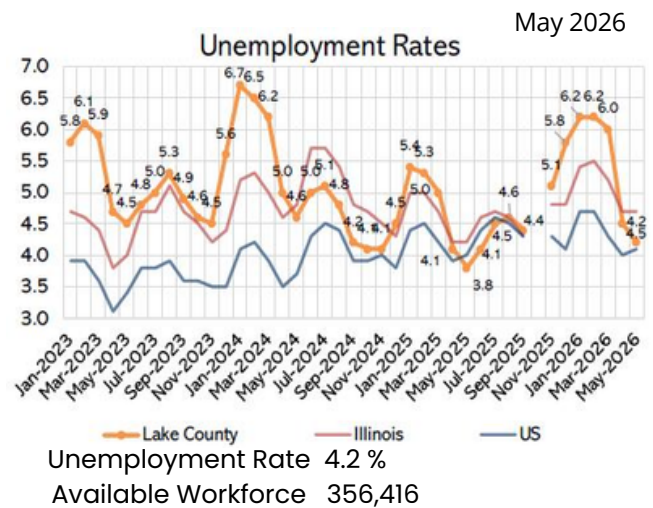
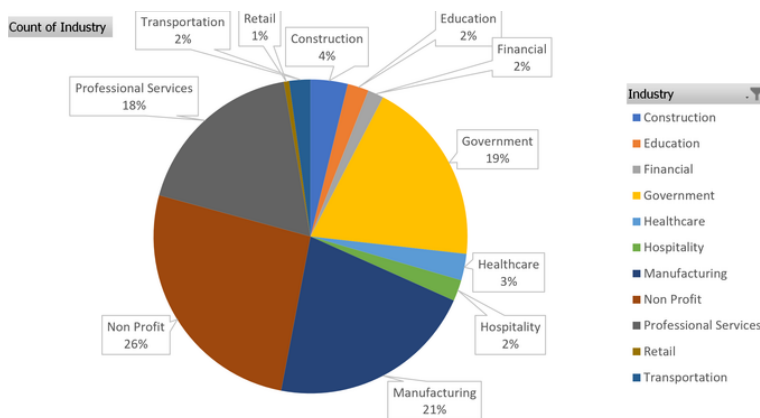
Job Postings

88

Work Experience / OJT

114

Employees Trained IWT



Highlights

- 1. Impact Awards Lake County Workforce Development Board**
Awards for employer and job seekers for community impact
- 2. Solar Panel Distribution Launch for Medline Industries**
BST attended the celebration of Medline's unveiling of a state-of-the-art rooftop solar power system.
- 3. D127 Senior Presentation**
LCWD presentation to students for career exploration
- 4. GLMV Block Party/ Taste of Towns**
Chamber event supporting local business via block party
- 5. Regional Apprenticeship Expansion Initiative**
A one-day workshop designed to help regional teams align strategy, strengthen employer engagement, and move apprenticeship priorities into action.
- 6. 1st Annual Apprenticeship Job Fair**
15 employers and 150 job seekers held at the ATC.
- 7. AI Readiness and Impact Lake County**
LCWD attended and included the importance of expanding AI literacy and career pathways for both job seekers.
- 8. LCWD Young Professional Panel**
The LCWD Board Talent Pipeline Committee hosted a Young Professionals Panel focused on "Workforce Pathways in Action: Developing Talent from Entry to Career."
- 9. Barrington Biz Builders Employer Networking Event**
Presented to 20 local businesses
- 10. Hire Lake County Round Lake Beach Job Fair**
37 Employers and 413 job seekers attended.

EVENTFUL MOMENTS



Chambers of Commerce Report



449 activities hosted
by GLMV & LZACC



GLMV Extreme Block Party Spring Family Expo

On Saturday, May 2, 2026, Lake County Workforce Development sponsored and participated in the 14th annual GLMV Extreme Block Party Spring Family Expo & Taste of the Towns at the DoubleTree Hotel in Mundelein, IL. The event welcomed community members, families, local businesses, vendors, and job seekers for a fun and engaging local resource showcase. According to Carol Levin, PR/Marketing Director for the GLMV Chamber of Commerce, confirmed via email that “some 1,500 visitors attended the busy EXPO”.

LZACC Community Expo

The LZACC Community EXPO is the Lake Zurich Area Chamber of Commerce’s largest annual business showcase – designed to put local companies, entrepreneurs, and organizations directly in front of hundreds of community members. This one-day event gives exhibitors the chance to highlight their products, share their services, and make meaningful connections with residents and fellow businesses.



PY25 Success



On April 7, 2026, the Lake County Workforce Development Business Services Team participated in the D127 Graduating Seniors Presentation at two locations: Grayslake Central High School in the morning and Grayslake North High School in the afternoon. There were roughly 30+ students and 10 counselors at each campus, almost 80 people in total.

At both locations, the Lake County Workforce Development Business Services Team presented a slide show to graduating seniors, as well as counselors from other high schools, about who we are, the resources we offer, and how we support youth and job seekers through workforce services and opportunities.

Additional presenters included Symbol Training Institute, City of Hope, BCU, and the Lake County Emergency Management Agency, all of whom introduced their organizations and shared their own backgrounds and stories. Following the presentations, students came up to the table we hosted and asked questions, and we were able to provide guidance, answer questions, and connect attendees with helpful information and resources.



On Monday May 18th, DJ and Rob had the opportunity to visit LMT Onsrud and present the Impact Beacon Award to Alejandro Haro in recognition of his achievements and workforce journey. The event was attended by many members of the LMT leadership team, creating a meaningful opportunity to celebrate Alejandro's success.

Following the award presentation, we toured the facility and engaged in valuable conversations around workforce needs, talent development pathways, and continued partnership opportunities.

LCWDB Employer Connections Focus Group

Meeting Summary | July 23, 2026

The Lake County Workforce Development Board Employer Connections Focus Group met on July 23, 2026, to build upon previous committee discussions and identify opportunities to strengthen employer communications and engagement. The focus group was designed to help establish three to five guiding principles that will shape employer engagement and support the Board's work over the next two years.

Employer Website Experience

The group reviewed the Job Center of Lake County Business Services webpage from an employer's perspective. While participants recognized that the website contains valuable information, they noted that the current landing page is text-heavy and could be more visually engaging and easier to navigate. Recommendations included reducing scrolling, limiting acronyms, simplifying the layout, and making information easier to find within the limitations of the County's website platform.

What Employers Need

Participants discussed the primary reasons employers may visit a workforce development website. These include connecting with qualified talent, accessing hiring and workforce programs, learning about job fairs and networking opportunities, and finding solutions to challenges such as employee retention, supervisor training, internships, workforce expansion, and bilingual talent needs. Employers may also be looking to connect with community partners or hear success stories from other businesses that have used workforce development services.

Shifting to Employer-Focused Messaging

A key takeaway was the need to focus less on explaining workforce development programs and more on addressing the challenges employers are trying to solve. Rather than leading with program names or technical terminology, the website should highlight outcomes such as finding talent, reducing turnover, strengthening employee skills, and supporting business growth. Employer testimonials, success stories, and clear value propositions were identified as important ways to communicate this value.

Improving the Employer Journey

The group agreed that employers need a clearer path from visiting the website to connecting with services. Suggested improvements included:

- Organizing information around **employer needs and solutions**
- Replacing lengthy content with concise summaries and "Learn More" options

- Incorporating more graphics, icons, and visual elements
- Reducing or eliminating acronyms
- Featuring employer testimonials and success stories
- Considering a change from **“Business Services”** to **“Employer Services”**
- Adding clear calls-to-action, contact information, FAQs, and employer journey pathways
- Using social media and short videos to direct employers to additional resources

Next Steps

Staff will use the feedback gathered during the focus group to guide future website enhancements and employer engagement strategies. The committee will continue reviewing best practices, examining additional website examples, and refining employer engagement priorities as part of its ongoing strategic planning efforts.