

LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 8:15 AM

Job Center of Lake County

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Public Comment**
- III. Chair Report**
- IV. Consent Agenda**

- a. June 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes [Attachment A](#)
- b. July 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes [Attachment B](#)

V. Regular Business

Action Items

- a. Accept the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) WIOA Apprenticeship Expansion Grant in the amount of \$550,000. [Attachment C](#)
- b. Accept the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) 2026 Supplemental Grant in the amount of \$149,955 to implement the Workforce Access and Economic Mobility Initiative. [Attachment D](#)
- c. Approval to renew the subrecipient agreement with the College of Lake County (CLC) for the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) Workforce Hub Grant continuation period from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, the maximum payment amount shall be \$3,052,100. [Attachment E](#)
- d. Approve the Community Capacity Building Pilot Projects with Aspiritech, Give Me TEN, Liberty Prairie, College of Lake County Manufacturing Alliance. [Attachment F](#)

Business

- a. Reviewing Employer Training Grant Investments
- b. Reviewing Training Provider Investments
- c. Workforce Board Committee Action Plan Updates
 - i. Youth Advisory Group
- d. Workforce Board Committee Governance and Membership
- e. Workforce Development Month

VI. Member Time & Strategic Focus

- a. Engagement Strategies – Regional, State, National
- b. Funding and Development
- c. Communication Strategies

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. Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings:

LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting

- Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 8:15 AM

LCWD Board of Directors Meeting

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

LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 8:15 AM****Job Center of Lake County**

Present: Kevin Considine, Timothy Dempsey, Edward Gallagher, Jennifer Harris (Zoom), Dr. Kristen Jones, Marcus Jordan (Zoom), Dr. Michael Karner (Zoom), Dennis Kessler, Dr. Carlotta Roman, Jennifer Serino, Kimberly Wimer (Zoom)

Absent: Laura Crivlare-Maglio, Josh Fischer, Mary Ross-Cunningham, Dr. Andrew Warrington

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

The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 8:22 AM by Executive Committee Chairwoman Dr. Carlotta Roman.

II. Public Comment

*Chairwoman Dr. Carlotta Roman welcomed attendees and invited introductions. During introductions, members welcomed **Dr. Kristen Jones, Interim President of the College of Lake County**, who joined the meeting and shared brief remarks regarding her new role and her interest in continuing the College's partnership with the Lake County Workforce Development Board and workforce system initiatives.*

III. Chair Report

Dr. Roman shared that Lake County Workforce Development and the Job Center of Lake County were recently recognized by the Legacy Reentry Foundation and received the Relentless Hope Award. She highlighted the strong partnership between the organizations and the collective impact being made to support individuals seeking employment, career advancement, and successful reentry into the workforce. The award recognized collaborative efforts to strengthen workforce opportunities and community engagement throughout Lake County.

IV. Consent Agenda

- a. *April 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes*
- b. *May 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes*
 - i. *Motion to approve: Timothy Dempsey*
 - ii. *Motion seconded: Dennis Kessler*
 - iii. *Motion carried.*

V. Regular Business (ACTION ITEMS)

- a. ***Approve the Program Year 26 WIOA Formula Grant Budget and Participant Plan for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth.***
 - i. *Jennifer Serino reviewed the Program Year 2026 WIOA formula allocations and budget recommendations. Lake County received a total allocation of \$6,864,406, representing a decrease of approximately 19 percent from Program Year 2025.*
 - ii. *Discussion focused on federal funding formula changes and unemployment rate impacts; maintaining staffing and service levels despite reduced allocations; leveraging supplemental funding sources including CEJA, apprenticeship, rapid response, SkillBridge, and other grants; and strategic investments in training, support services, and workforce programs.*
 - iii. *Staff highlighted that additional grant funding has allowed the organization to maintain staffing levels, expand services, and continue investments in workforce development despite reductions in formula funding.*
 - 1. *Motion to approve: Timothy Dempsey*
 - 2. *Motion seconded: Kevin Considine*
 - 3. *Motion carried.*
- 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.***
 - i. *Staff reviewed performance outcomes for WIOA Out-of-School Youth Providers. Discussion included enrollment, measurable skills gains, credential attainment, employment outcomes, and continued service need.*
 - ii. *Both 160 Driving Academy and Youth Conservation Corps demonstrated sufficient performance and alignment with workforce priorities. Members also discussed the*

availability of WIOA Out-of-School Youth funding and the importance of maintaining service capacity for eligible youth.

- 1. Motion to approve: Dennis Kessler*
- 2. Motion seconded: Ed Gallagher*
- 3. Motion carried.*
- 4. Timothy Dempsey abstained.*

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.

- i. Staff presented a proposal to establish Community Capacity Building Pilot Projects as a workforce strategy designed to expand service capacity, strengthen community and employer partnerships, and support Board-aligned workforce priorities.*
- ii. Discussion focused on leveraging trusted community organizations to extend workforce services, expanding access to underserved populations, building stronger employer and community partnerships, and supporting innovative workforce solutions through targeted pilot investments.*
 - 1. Motion to approve: Timothy Dempsey*
 - 2. Motion seconded: Kevin Considine*
 - 3. Motion carried.*

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

- i. Staff presented a proposal to establish a Youth and Young Adult Workforce Advisory Group to support the Board's youth and young adult workforce strategy.*
- ii. Discussion focused on strengthening connections between workforce development, education, employers, and young adults; expanding career pathway awareness and work-based learning opportunities; providing input on emerging workforce trends impacting young people; and supporting long-term talent pipeline development efforts.*
 - 1. Motion to approve: Dr. Kristen Jones*
 - 2. Motion seconded: Timothy Dempsey*

3. *Motion carried.*

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.*

i. *Staff presented the WIOA Rapid Response Grant award in the amount of \$440,000 for the grant period of April 1, 2026, through December 30, 2027.*

ii. *Discussion focused on the flexibility of rapid response funding, support for workers impact by layoffs and business closures, workforce transition services and reemployment activities, and opportunities to supplement existing workforce programs and initiatives.*

1. *Motion to approve: Marcus Jordan*

2. *Motion seconded: Kevin Considine*

3. *Motion carried.*

f. *Approve the Nominating Committee's recommended Slate of Officers for PY'26.*

i. *The Nominating Committee presented the recommended Program Year 2026 Slate of Officers:*

1. *Chair: Dr. Carlotta Roman*

2. *Vice Chair: Josh Fischer*

a. *Motion to approve: Timothy Dempsey*

b. *Motion seconded: Ed Gallagher*

c. *Motion carried.*

VI. *Other Business / Updates*

a. *Federal and State Updates*

i. *Staff provided updates regarding:*

1. *Apprenticeship grant activities and expansion efforts.*

2. *CEJA programming and workforce training initiatives.*

3. *Workforce system modernization efforts, including IWDS 2.0 implementation.*

4. *Ongoing grant opportunities and funding applications.*

5. *Upcoming workforce development events and initiatives.*

VII. Member Time

- a. *Jeff Hubert provided an update on the upcoming **Hire Lake County Job Fair**, highlighting opportunities for employers and job seekers to connect through the event. He encouraged workforce partners to promote the job fair and support outreach efforts to both businesses and job seekers throughout the county.*

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 AM.

Motion to approve: Timothy Dempsey

Motion seconded: Kevin Considine

Motion carried.

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, July 15, 2026, at 8:15 AM****Zoom**

Present: Kevin Considine, Timothy Dempsey, Jennifer Harris, Dr. Kristen Jones, Marcus Jordan, Dr. Michael Karner, Dennis Kessler, Dr. Carlotta Roman, Jennifer Serino, Dr. Andrew Warrington, Kimberly Wimer

Absent: Laura Crivlare-Maglio, Ed Gallagher, Josh Fischer

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

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

II. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

III. Chair Report

No chair report for this meeting.

IV. Strategic Focus

a. Changes Affecting Talent Development in Lake County

- i. Jennifer Serino provided an overview of current and emerging changes affecting talent development in Lake County and encouraged the Executive Committee to discuss how the Board can continue to lead in these areas. The discussion focused on work-based learning and career pathways, digital access and literacy, integrated partnerships and community access, employer communication, and governance, policy, and advocacy.*

1. Digital Literacy

- a. The Committee discussed the importance of digital literacy as a foundational workforce skill. The Digital Growth Initiative has provided digital literacy training, access to Northstar Digital Learning, and devices to Lake County residents through ARPA*

funding. While the program itself is not ending, the County's ARPA funding supporting the initiative is scheduled to sunset at the end of 2026.

- b. Workforce Development has secured additional DCEO funding to continue one digital navigator position, provide Northstar training, and distribute a limited number of devices. Staff are also working with the County Administrator's Office on a request to transition the initiative into Job Center on the Move and potentially support it through County funding. A final decision is expected as part of the County's November budget process.*
- c. The Committee discussed the value of Northstar Digital Learning, which provides structured training in basic computer literacy. Participants complete six sessions and demonstrate competency through an assessment. The training is intended to improve employability and help individuals navigate an increasingly digital workplace.*
- d. Members discussed whether digital literacy should be viewed as a standalone service or integrated into a broader continuum of workforce and community services. Jennifer Harris encouraged the Board to consider how participants could remain connected to additional services after completing digital literacy training, including employment services, education, financial literacy, and other supportive resources.*
- e. The Committee also discussed the connection between digital literacy and AI literacy. Members noted that individuals need foundational digital skills before they can effectively utilize AI tools and that AI literacy will increasingly be an important workforce skill. Staff shared that Workforce Development has partnered with Deloitte on AI training for staff and is exploring how to incorporate AI literacy into services provided to staff, job seekers, and participants.*

- f. Members also discussed the sustainability of device distribution. Ideas included pursuing private philanthropy, corporate social responsibility partnerships, refurbished devices, and potential partnerships with technology companies and foundations. The Committee discussed exploring organizations such as CDW, Microsoft, HP, and the Circle of Service Foundation as potential sources of support.*

2. Pell Grant Changes

3. Increase in Employer-Led Training

- a. The Committee discussed the continued growth of work-based learning, apprenticeships, and employer-led training as major workforce development priorities. Staff noted that apprenticeship expansion is a federal and state priority, and Lake County has received apprenticeship grant funding to support expansion.*
- b. The Board's investment in youth-serving organizations and high schools is also supporting work-based learning opportunities. Staff indicated that metrics from these pilots will help determine their impact and inform future strategies for expanding employer participation.*
- c. The Committee also discussed the importance of employer engagement in apprenticeship programs. Staff shared that Lake County is participating in an international initiative focused on learning how to better engage employers in apprenticeships and work-based learning.*
- d. Members discussed the need to engage Board members more intentionally in industries where they can provide leadership and connections. Healthcare, manufacturing, construction, and the skilled trades were identified as areas where Board members could help strengthen employer relationships and talent pipelines.*

4. IWDS 2.0 / Local Policy Revisions

- a. Staff provided an update on IWDS 2.0, which launched July 8, 2026. The new system creates a standardized, customer-driven entry point*

for workforce services throughout Illinois. Customers complete portions of the intake process online, including uploading documents, completing assessments, and providing signatures.

- b. Staff noted that the system was only approximately one week into implementation and that Workforce Development was continuing to identify and address issues. Because the new system changes customer flow, engagement, assessment, and eligibility processes, local policies must be reviewed and updated accordingly.*
- c. The Board must complete its policy updates by October 1, 2026. Staff are conducting crosswalks between existing local policies and new state requirements, with policy revisions expected to come before the Board in September. The process also provides an opportunity to review the Board's priority occupations and determine whether the Board should place greater emphasis on specific industries and occupations when funding occupational training.*
- d. A Committee member recommended obtaining feedback from customers regarding their experiences with IWDS 2.0, particularly because the new system requires significantly more online interaction. Staff agreed to bring an initial review of customer experience to the Committee in September.*

5. Sustainable Youth Funding

- a. The Committee discussed the Board's continued focus on work-based learning and career pathways for youth. Staff described the ongoing ecosystem work focused on ensuring that every student has access to a career pathway as they transition from high school.*
- b. The discussion also emphasized that career pathways should not be limited to youth. Members noted that adults of all ages can benefit from career planning, professional development, apprenticeships, and opportunities to continue building skills throughout their careers.*
- c. The Committee discussed the use of School Links to connect students and employers and track work-based learning opportunities. The*

platform currently has more than 830 businesses registered for the countywide portion, while nearly 5,000 students have participated in Navigate Lake activities. Paid internships through Endeavor Health are also being tracked through the platform.

6. Additional Strategic Discussion

a. Integrated Partnerships and Community Access

- i. The Committee discussed upcoming SNAP work requirements and the role workforce partners can play in helping individuals meet those requirements while progressing toward employment and family-sustaining wages.*
- ii. Staff explained that SNAP work requirements generally involve 20 hours per week of employment, participation in an approved work program, community service, or a combination of qualifying activities. Approximately 25–30% of Workforce Development participants disclose that they receive SNAP benefits.*
- iii. Members discussed the importance of viewing the issue as part of a larger workforce ecosystem rather than simply helping individuals satisfy the initial requirement. The Committee discussed opportunities to connect individuals to training, employment, community service, digital literacy, and other services that can help them progress toward sustainable employment.*
- iv. The Committee also discussed barriers such as transportation and childcare and the importance of connecting individuals with partner organizations that can address those needs.*

b. Employer Communication

- i. Staff briefly reviewed the upcoming work of the Employer Connections Committee, which is focused on creating clear entry points and a strong value proposition for employers, industries, and businesses seeking to engage with the workforce system. The Employer Connections Committee was*

scheduled to continue this discussion at its upcoming meeting.

c. Governance, Policy, and Advocacy

- i. Jennifer provided an update on proposed federal changes affecting the use of workforce funding. The proposed changes could increase reporting, documentation, and scrutiny related to expenditures such as staff development, conference attendance, and association memberships. The Committee discussed concerns that additional administrative requirements could increase staff workload and reduce the amount of time available for direct workforce development activities.*
- ii. Members discussed the importance of strengthening relationships with local, state, and federal elected officials and increasing awareness of the workforce system's role in Lake County. The Committee discussed potential advocacy strategies, including developing stronger relationships with local elected officials and potentially participating in a statewide Workforce Day or similar advocacy effort.*
- iii. Staff noted that the Illinois Workforce Association has submitted comments regarding the proposed federal changes and that Lake County Workforce Development is participating in those efforts. Staff also noted that the proposed changes could affect other county departments receiving federal funds and that workforce concerns have been incorporated into the County's legislative agenda.*
- iv. The Committee also discussed the state's new 2040 postsecondary credential attainment goal. Illinois previously established a goal of having 60% of adults hold a high-quality postsecondary credential by 2025; approximately 57.1% was achieved. The new initiative seeks broad stakeholder input—including businesses, industries, community organizations,*

and workforce partners—to help establish the 2040 goal and define meaningful credentials and their value to the labor market.

V. Other Business / Updates

- a. No additional business was discussed beyond the strategic topics above.*

VI. Member Time

- a. Dr. Carlotta Roman encouraged members to attend an upcoming presentation on using data and outcomes to drive workforce development decisions, which Workforce Development staff were scheduled to present.*
- b. Dr. Carlotta Roman also recognized DJ Newport for his contributions to the Lake County Workforce Development Board, Workforce Development Department, and broader workforce ecosystem as he prepared to transition to a new opportunity.*

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 AM.

Upcoming Meetings:

LCWDB Employer Connections Committee Focus Group

- Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 9:00 AM

LCWDB Operations Committee Meeting

- Friday, August 8, 2026, at 9:00 AM

LCWDB Talent Pipeline Committee Meeting

- Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 9:00 AM

LCWDB Employer Connections Committee Meeting

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

LCWDB Executive Committee Meeting

- Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 8:15 AM

LCWDB Board of Directors Meeting

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

Action Item

Accept the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) WIOA Apprenticeship Expansion Grant in the amount of \$550,000.

Grant Period: July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028

Background

Lake County Workforce Development (LCWD), in partnership with **McHenry County Workforce Network (MCWN)**, is advancing a regional apprenticeship strategy designed to make apprenticeship and work-based learning a core component of the workforce system rather than a stand-alone program.

The initiative builds upon a substantial existing WBL infrastructure. Over the past year, LCWD coordinated **80+ work-based learning opportunities across 40+ employer worksites, 20+ On-the-Job Training opportunities, 7 new apprenticeship worksites, and training for 90+ individuals through apprenticeship-related Incumbent Worker Training activities.**

The next phase intentionally uses this employer base as a pipeline for apprenticeship expansion, with a goal of transitioning **at least 20% of current WBL employer sites into active Registered Apprenticeship Programs.**

Project Details**Regional Infrastructure**

- Lake County Apprenticeship Specialists: **Sara Espeland – 100%** and **Omar Ramirez – 50%** dedicated to apprenticeship/WBL.
- McHenry County will add a dedicated **Apprenticeship Specialist**, creating a coordinated regional team.
- Lake and McHenry will use shared planning, employer outreach, sector strategies, and an apprenticeship-centered Integrated Business Services Team approach.
- Employer incentives 15x4,000

Strategic Outcome

Move apprenticeship from a grant-funded activity to a **core regional talent-development strategy**, while advancing Illinois' goal of dedicating at least **10% of WIOA Title I-B expenditures to WBL and apprenticeship by 2029.**

Action Item

Accept the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) 2026 Supplemental Grant in the amount of \$149,955 to implement the Workforce Access and Economic Mobility Initiative.

Grant Period: July 1st, 2025 – June 30th, 2026

Participants: SNAP Recipients, youth and underserved communities

Project

Expand access to workforce services and career pathways for SNAP recipients, youth, WIOA-eligible individuals, and underserved communities through community-based outreach, digital access, a workforce kiosk, two-way text communication, and digital literacy/technology supports.

Strengthen employer and small-business talent pipelines through **\$75,000 in paid work-based learning**, providing up to 10 individuals with meaningful work experience while engaging employers as partners in developing future talent and pathways to employment.

Strengthen workforce system capacity, sustainability, and measurable impact by leveraging existing WIOA services and partnerships, coordinating referrals with DHS and community partners, and investing in data, outcomes, and storytelling to demonstrate return on investment and inform future workforce strategies.

Lake County Workforce Development Board Executive Committee - August 2026

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 continuation period from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, the maximum payment amount shall be \$3,052,100.

Background:

The College of Lake County was awarded the third 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 \$3,052,100.

Grant Details

- **Funding Source:** College of Lake County CEJA Workforce Hub Grant with Illinois DCEO
- **Grant Period:** July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027
- **Grant Amount:** \$3,052,100
- **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

Community Capacity Building Pilot Projects

Action Requested

Approve the Community Capacity Building Pilot Projects with Aspiritech, Give Me TEN, Liberty Prairie, College of Lake County Manufacturing Alliance.

Background

The Executive Committee approved at the June 2026 meeting to execute Community Capacity Building Pilot Projects, entering into agreements with community and education organizations with agreements not exceeding \$50,000 and total awards not to exceed \$200,000.

Lake County Workforce Development has identified four key pilot projects that align with increasing services to opportunity youth, expanding summer youth employment opportunities, support industry sector partnerships, expand work-based learning opportunities, increase small business engagement, and create more accessible entry points into workforce services for WIOA eligible youth and opportunity youth.

Aspiritech 47,500 June 1, 2026 – January 31, 2027

Comprehensive pre-apprenticeship/apprenticeship education services and program enrollment coordination for Aspiritech's DOL Registered Apprenticeship program. Expand pre-apprenticeship/apprenticeship programming efforts in tailored inclusive virtual instruction and hands-on experience, while ensuring individuals with barriers, which may include neurodivergent/autistic individuals have access to uninterrupted services aligned with high-demand technology fields supporting industry sector programming.

Give Me TEN 49,500 June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2027

Give Me TEN is founded on a simple idea: career pathways begin with exposure. Before a student chooses a career, applies for an internship, enters an apprenticeship, or joins the workforce, they must first understand what opportunities exist. By asking employers to invest just ten hours, Give Me TEN removes barriers to participation and creates meaningful connections between students, education, business, and workforce development. What begins as a career exploration experience can evolve into internships, apprenticeships, employment opportunities, and long-term talent pipeline development. This pilot project will establish a sustainable employer-driven workforce development framework that connects education, business, and workforce partners through a common process. The objective is not simply to increase the number of employer partners or student experiences, but to create a repeatable system that helps students discover career pathways, supports employers in developing future talent, and strengthens workforce development efforts throughout the region.

Liberty Prairie 49,500 June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2027

Liberty Prairie NFP shall serve as an industry-based work experience and career exploration site where participants develop transferable workforce skills while engaging in authentic business operations within the agriculture, food systems, environmental education, recreation, hospitality, entrepreneurship, and nonprofit sectors. Participants will engage in structured work

experiences that combine supervised employment with occupational learning. Work assignments reflect real business functions and may include agricultural production, farm operations, customer service, environmental stewardship, event operations, youth programming, marketing, sales, entrepreneurship, inventory management, and community engagement activities. Career exploration activities shall expose participants to multiple occupations and career pathways connected to the regional economy, including but not limited to: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems, Environmental and Conservation Careers, Education and Youth Development, Parks, Recreation, and Outdoor Education, Hospitality and Event Management, Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Marketing and Communications, Community Development and Nonprofit Leadership

College of Lake County Manufacturing Alliance 49,500 June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2027

College of Lake County (CLC), in partnership with the Manufacturing Alliance will deliver a comprehensive set of workforce development services to strengthen the regional manufacturing talent pipeline in Lake County. The deliverables focus on employer engagement, training and credential alignment, youth pipeline development, and the creation of actionable talent supply data to support employer and ecosystem decision-making.

Employer-Led Industry Engagement and Business Services: CLC and the Manufacturing Alliance will convene and support manufacturing employers as an industry collaborative to identify workforce needs, strengthen talent strategies, and increase coordination across the workforce ecosystem.

Training, Credentialing, and Placement Support: CLC and the Manufacturing Alliance will support training and credential pathways aligned with employer demand and connect individuals to employment opportunities within the manufacturing sector.

Youth and Emerging Talent Pipeline Development (Ages 16–24): The Manufacturing Alliance will expand awareness of and access to manufacturing careers for youth and young adults, strengthening entry pathways into the sector.

Talent Supply Data Resources: CLC and the Manufacturing Alliance will develop sustainable data templates to track and analyze manufacturing talent supply across high school, postsecondary, and noncredit training pathways.