

DCEO Workforce Initiatives

Workforce Summit
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Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

DCEO At-A-Glance

DCEO is the state's economic development arm, dedicated to creating opportunity for all Illinoisians by attracting job creators, bolstering our small businesses, supporting communities, and ***building a strong workforce.***

- 10 Economic Development Regions
- 15+ Program Offices including:
 - Broadband Office
 - Community Assistance
 - Energy & Business Utility (CEJA Programs)
 - Film
 - Tourism
 - Trade & Investment
 - Business Development
 - Employment and Training



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Core Mission

DCEO administers comprehensive workforce training, career programs and funding to drive equitable economic growth

Strategic Alignment

Bridges the gap between employer demands and worker education creating data-driven talent solutions across the state.

Targeted Impact

Focuses investments on historically underserved communities, dislocated workers, and emerging sustainable career sectors.



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Federal and State Framework

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Serves as the foundation for state-level workforce investments targeting
adults, youth, and dislocated workers

Localized System Delivery

Coordinates with Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) to tailor
career services to regional market demands

Comprehensive Support

Provides funding for foundational career counseling, individual training accounts
and immediate job placement assistance



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Equity in Action: Illinois Works

Apprenticeship Initiative

Expands high-quality training access in trade professions, scaling up skilled talent across various sectors.

Construction Pre-Apprenticeship

Creates diverse, structured pathways explicitly designed for underrepresented communities in the construction trades.

Barrier Reduction

Integrates critical wraparound services, including transportation, childcare, and stipend assistance to ensure participant retention.



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Future Fields: Clean Energy (CEJA)

Climate and Equitable Jobs Act

Establishes a robust state framework for training workers for sustainable, green-energy infrastructure careers.

Economic Justice Focus

Prioritizes programmatic investments and training recruitment in historically marginalized and economically disadvantaged communities.

Targeted Clean Energy Roles

Prepares individuals for immediate employment in solar installation, EV infrastructure, and advanced grid efficiency fields.



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Digital Infrastructure & Ecosystems

Illinois workNet

Serves as the primary virtual hub connecting jobseekers, training institutions
and local employers seamlessly

Jobseeker Empowerment

Provides built-in resume builder modules, career pathway guides
and comprehensive training program directories.

Employer Services

Equips companies with real-time labor market analytics, automated recruitment channels
and dedicated posting platforms.



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Strategic Vision and Next Steps

Sustained Funding Pathways

Leverages combined state allocations and federal grants to build resilient economic safety nets.

Cross-Sector Collaboration

Unifies educational institutions, labor unions, and private enterprises
under shared development goals.

★ Data-Driven Expansion

Continuously tracks employer satisfaction and placement metrics
to refine programmatic curriculum over time



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Illinois State Attainment Group Working Group



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ATTAINMENT GOAL

A **North Star** that establishes a consistent vision on the horizon for the state.



CREDENTIALS OF VALUE COMPLETION GOAL

A goal to establish targets for institutions to drive change. Informed by a list that identifies high-priority credentials regionally and is updated regularly to account for evolving labor market needs.



REGIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Establish priorities and opportunities by region



LEARNER EXPERIENCE

Acknowledge variation in student experience and backgrounds, and design systems that meet the needs of modern learners.



A CLEAR VISION. CONNECTED ACTION.

Illinois's attainment goal guides all decisions and keeps us focused on the future.

Illinois focuses on credentials that lead to meaningful outcomes and update as needs evolve.

Illinois aligns strategies to regional strengths, needs, and opportunities.

Illinois designs flexible, equitable systems that meet learners where they are.



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