

“a leader in driving workforce development and economic growth in the metropolitan Chicago region”



The Workforce Boards
OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO

MISSION

As a consortium of Workforce Boards, The Workforce Boards of Metropolitan Chicago is a leader in driving workforce development and economic growth in the metropolitan Chicago region through development of a skilled workforce. The Workforce Boards will accomplish this by articulating priority industries for the region, maximizing investments in workforce development, and developing a talent pool that meets the needs of the region's employers.



WHO WE ARE

The Workforce Boards of Metropolitan Chicago is a consortium of six Workforce Boards that have responsibility for development and oversight of the public workforce system in each of their respective local areas. The region is comprised of the City of Chicago and Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties.

To better understand the consortium, it is important to understand the foundation of the Workforce Boards and their role. Workforce Boards are business-led, policy-, and decision-making bodies, with a majority of their membership being private sector businesses that are reflective of their local economies. Workforce Boards were created under a 1998 federal law called the Workforce Investment Act with a mandate to create a workforce development system that addresses the needs of employers for qualified workers.

Workforce Boards are responsible for governing the public workforce system and overseeing delivery of Workforce Investment Act workforce preparation programs in their local areas. Workforce Boards serve in the role of facilitating strategic partnerships with key workforce stakeholders to coordinate workforce development with economic development strategies. Workforce Boards promote the participation of employers in the public workforce system to expand employment opportunities for local residents.

The Workforce Boards of Metropolitan Chicago have as many as 165 businesses actively providing oversight to an annual human capital development investment of approximately \$65 million.



REGIONAL APPROACH

The Workforce Boards' successful alliance is based on the knowledge that the metropolitan Chicago area represents a regional economy and, therefore, the challenges in developing a highly skilled workforce that meets the current and future needs of employers are shared across the metropolitan area and counties. Collectively the Workforce Boards are more effective promoting regional strategies and policies that address workforce needs, advocating for innovative practices that support such policies, and leveraging resources to address regional issues and advance change.

WHAT WE DO

The Workforce Boards' regional activities support two priorities: human capital development and economic development. The types of activities undertaken in support of each priority are identified below.

HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

- *Connect employers with workforce development and education partners to identify and implement strategies for addressing human capital needs of the region's industries.*
- *Convene regional stakeholders for the purpose of enhancing coordination between and among programs that provide services in support of human capital development and attachment to the labor force.*
- *Provide regional labor market data and analysis that supports the alignment of regional human capital investments with the workforce needs of employers.*
- *Provide support to strategies that address career awareness and educational issues impacting the employability of youth, recognizing that they are the region's future workforce.*
- *Identify gaps between skills and education of the region's labor force and current and future skill needs of employers. Work collaboratively to develop strategies to address the gaps.*
- *Support initiatives that increase the attainment of degrees and certificates for high demand occupations.*
- *Identify new, innovative program approaches to address the region's workforce needs.*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- *Engage employers in validating workforce needs and providing advice and guidance on human capital investment strategies; use sector strategies to effectively engage industries that are drivers of the regional economy.*
- *Align workforce development strategies with regional economic development strategies.*
- *Leverage resources to support human capital development strategies that directly address economic development priorities.*
- *Leverage additional resources to support preparation of individuals for high growth, high skill occupations and career advancement.*
- *Compile indicator data that promotes the region's economic competitiveness and quality of life.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.workforceboardsmetrochicago.com for member Workforce Boards' contact information, updates on current regional initiatives, and products/reports produced by The Workforce Boards of Metropolitan Chicago.





www.workforceboardsmetrochicago.com

This document was supported by Grant #90FX0016 from the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS.