



# Illinois Apprenticeship Briefing



## State and National Priorities

Illinois has developed an approach and strategies to further develop apprenticeship opportunities that align to and support national priorities. In April of 2014, the President announced new federal investments to support job-driven training including apprenticeships to expand public-private partnerships.

Nationwide there are over 8,600 registered apprenticeship programs with 448,000 apprentices currently enrolled. **In Illinois there are 511 apprenticeship programs with over 4,700 individuals completing their apprenticeship in 2015.**

## Illinois initiatives

- **WIOA Planning and Policy** - The Illinois' WIOA Unified Plan encourages apprenticeships through demonstration projects and public-private partnerships to develop best practices.
- **The Illinois Workforce Innovation Board (IWIB)** is forming an Apprenticeship Taskforce.
- **Illinois Apprenticeship Initiative** - Illinois was awarded three projects totaling \$9.3 million as part of the \$175 American Apprenticeship initiative. The Illinois Apprenticeship Working Group has developed a plan including piloting new apprenticeship partnerships and strategies.
- **Illinois Talent Pipeline Management** - Illinois Commerce, Office of Employment and Training (OET) is supporting employer-based training strategies that include apprenticeships.

## Illinois Apprenticeship Initiatives

To further national efforts with increasing apprenticeship programs, Illinois is coordinating successful Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) training programs that foster new development and complement existing apprenticeship programs.

### State and Federal Coordination

- Since 2014, Illinois Commerce OET staff has been working with U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship and Training Representatives (ATRs) to specifically identify and work through barriers to apprenticeship coordination. The typical Apprenticeship programs lasts 4 years and are funded by employers and combine work-based learning with classroom training

### New Apprenticeship Models and Opportunities

- The Accelerated Training for Illinois Manufacturing (ATIM) program sponsored by OET, used a model including on-the-job training and classroom training. This model is an informal hybrid apprenticeship program that has been successful.
- In Illinois OET and ATR staff is working with Illinois Talent Pipeline grantees and the Local Workforce Innovation Areas to either expand or implement apprenticeship programs. Some examples of participating employers are shown below. These companies are interested in a hybrid apprenticeship model. The apprentice occupations include those in manufacturing, airline mechanics, truck drivers and a variety of construction trade occupations. The goal is to include occupations across all pathways and sectors which are not traditionally thought of as using an apprenticeship training format.
  - Emery Air (Rockford)
  - JB Hunt Trucking (State wide)
  - Focal Point Manufacturing (Chicago)
  - Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. (Cook County and Sangamon County)

### Challenges and Next Steps

In spring of 2017, Illinois Commerce, OET offered competitive grant opportunities to establish Adult and Youth Registered Apprenticeships in Illinois. These applications are currently under review. Challenges include: program eligibility; length of apprenticeship training; program definitions; and companies' reluctance to participate. A collaborative workgroup was formed that includes subject matter experts of the WIOA and Trade programs and consists of staff from the state OET, Federal ATRs.



**Illinois**  
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