



What is *Illinois Works for the Future*?

Illinois Works for the Future is a campaign initiated by the Chicago Jobs Council, the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability and the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, and now includes more than 60 organizational endorsers, and leaders in workforce and economic development across the state on its leadership team. Its mission is to work with private and public partners statewide to integrate workforce and economic development. This means thinking “outside the box” about ways to deliver job skills training and education in a way that is beneficial for workers, business and the community.

Why do we need this campaign?

Illinois must act. Over the last fifteen years Illinois has experienced an economic shift that commands both public and private sector attention and action. Despite having the nation’s fifth largest state economy, the State ranks 35th in the growth of the Gross State Product, producing only 37,000 jobs per year. Between 1990 and 2005, the number of manufacturing jobs in Illinois declined by nearly 25 percent. During this same period, job growth occurred in education, health services, and hospitality, industries paying significantly less than manufacturing, and often requiring post-secondary education and training. But, in Illinois over one million eighteen to sixty-four year olds have no high school diploma or equivalent, and over sixty percent of these working age individuals are without an associate degree or higher.¹ Currently, just 35 percent of Illinois’ young adults are enrolled in education and training beyond high school.²

What are IWF’s goals?

Over the next three to five years, campaign partners expect to generate both the viable solutions and political will necessary to make the integration of workforce and economic development a state priority.

What does it mean to endorse IWF?

Campaign endorsers believe, to compete successfully in a global economy and end poverty, Illinois needs an integrated economic and workforce development policy that *works for everyone*: producing skilled workers, in strong businesses, with good jobs, that foster thriving communities. Realizing this vision will require a series of policy initiatives that:

- Ensure Illinoisans develop the skills businesses demand in a modern economy.
- Create career paths and job opportunities for all working-age Illinoisans, from the least skilled and most disadvantaged to middle income workers whose skills have become obsolete.
- Invest resources in the capital and human infrastructure needed to attract and retain “high road” employers that provide quality jobs, wages, and benefits.
- Encourage entrepreneurship, small business growth, technology transfers from Illinois’ higher education system, and other economic/workforce development innovation in all communities across Illinois to grow competitive state businesses.
- Support economic and workforce development that is environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable.

How can I become involved?

The first step is to become an endorser, either as an organization or as an individual. Joining the campaign in this way will allow us to communicate with you about opportunities for involvement in the campaign as they arise. In 2009, we anticipate sponsoring a series of hearings around the state to gather input on workforce development needs and community generated solutions.

For more information, contact IWF Campaign Director, Jennifer Kottler at jcottler@cj.net or by phone at 312-252-0461. Also, please visit our website that has all the latest news and information. It is posted at: www.ilworks4future.org.

¹ Population Reference Bureau, Analysis of the 2006 American Community Survey, for the Working Poor Families Project.

² Measuring Up 2006: The National Report Card on Higher Education. The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education.



The following organizations endorse the *Illinois Works for the Future* campaign vision*:

A Safe Haven, LLC
Association House
Aurora Township
Bridge Communities
Careers, Etc.
CARES Chicago
Center for Labor and Community Research
Center for Tax and Budget Accountability
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Chicago Jobs Council
Chicago Urban League
Citizen Action/Illinois
City of Hoopeston
Community Assistance Programs
Community Connections Consulting, Inc.
Community Foundation of Decatur/Macon County
Delabar Vocational Education System
Easter Seals, Inc.
Employment and Employer Services
Empower to Succeed
Erie Neighborhood House
Good Jobs First Illinois
Growing Home, Inc.
Harborquest, Inc.
Health and Disabilities Advocates
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights
Heartland Human Care Services, Inc.
Helping Hands of Springfield
HESED House
Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies
Illinois Workforce Partnership
Illinois Youth Build Coalition
Inspiration Corporation
Jane Addams Resource Corporation
La Casa Norte
LEED Council, Inc.
Macomb Area Economic Development Corporation
Madison-Bond Workforce Investment Board
Mayor's Office of Workforce Development (Chicago)
Mercy Housing Lakefront
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
National Able Network
National Association of Social Workers — Illinois Chapter
National Latino Education Institute
North Lawndale Employment Network
OAI, Inc.
People's Resource Center
Peoria Public Schools
Phalanx Family Services
Quad County Urban League
RITAS Ministries
Rock Island County Regional Office of Education
Rockford Jobs Council
Roseborough and Associates
Safer Foundation
Sangamon County Community Resources
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Second Chance Employment Empowerment Project
Self Help Jobs Program
Service Employees International Union — Local 4
Spannaus Consulting
Springfield Urban League
St. Sabina Employment Resource Center
The Cara Program
THE CENTER: Resources for Teaching and Learning
Uhlich Children's Advantage Network (UCAN)
Voices for Illinois Children
Western Illinois Entrepreneurship Center
Women Employed
Workforce and Employer Resource Collaborative
Workforce Investment Solutions
Working Poor Families Project
YMCA Alliance of Metropolitan Chicago
YWCA of Springfield

* Endorsing organizations do not necessarily support specific policy recommendations of the *Illinois Works for the Future* campaign.