

Illinois Central College Contract Abstract

This contract has been entered into for the purpose of providing a drop-out recovery program for the youth. The contract began on July 1, 2021 and will terminate on June 30, 2022. This contract is renewable for two additional years at the discretion of Career Link. The funding amount is \$55,437. The enrollment goal is 20 students. To participate students must meet the eligibility criteria for out-of-school youth as defined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Illinois Central College will provide the intensive education and employment skills program for Peoria and Tazewell County youth. The program will serve students, ages 16-24, that have dropped out of high school, have a deficiency in literacy or numeracy, and are economically disadvantaged, will be provided an opportunity to participate in a GED Recovery Program.

Illinois Central College will provide all four required elements of the program – instruction for GED preparation, for literacy and numeracy gains, for employment related skills, and incentives to motivate students to achieve. The College will also partner with other groups and businesses to provide workforce experiences.

All services will be provided through ICC's ICCB-certified Adult Education program. The instructional activities will be taught by Adult Education program instructors, and a Transition Coordinator will lead the Career Exploration, Job Readiness, and Job Search Techniques activities in conjunction with staff from the College's Career Center and Job Placement Office. The instruction for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) portion of an IET program will be provided by the appropriate academic department.

Participants will be required to complete instructor-guided GPEAK (Greater Peoria Essential Abilities and Knowledge) lessons and study the employability skills necessary to become a successful employee such as punctuality, working in teams, problem-solving skills, ethical behavior, and communication. Students will also practice proper interviewing skills. Each GPEAK "badge" earned in our program can be applied towards their GPEAK certification.

A financial incentive system will be offered to encourage perseverance and participation in goal-directed activities. Incentives may be modified, with prior approval from Career Link, as the need arises to make them more effective and appropriate in promoting program successes.

Students completing the Career Link Opportunity Program who wish to transition directly to work will be referred to the ICC Career Center or to Career Link for work experience, on-the-job training, and/or job search. In addition, the department Transition Coordinator will work with students to discuss seeking employment opportunities.

Employers from industry sector leaders as identified in the North Central Economic Development Region 3 Local Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act plan will be invited to speak to the students.

Employers will share specific industry labor market information and job readiness expectations. ICC will also host career fairs, and expos around manufacturing and health careers where employers may interact directly with students and share information on high need/high wage sectors.

ICC's Adult Education program will offer a Health Career IET Program Pathway, a Manufacturing IET Program Pathway and an IT IET Program so students may completed ICC Healthcare/Manufacturing/IT classes while they continue to work on GED preparation.

Following the IET program, the students will have the opportunity to continue in postsecondary training along the chosen pathway and receive additional credentials.