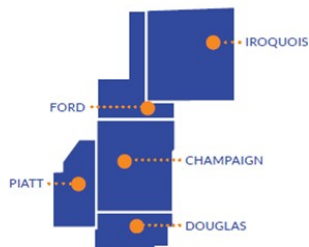




Annual Report



December 2022

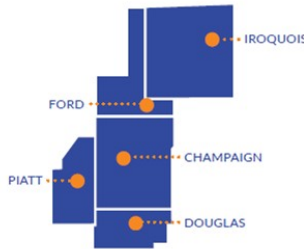
East Central Illinois workNet Annual Report 2022

prepared by



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION

www.ECIWork.net



Highlights

Local Workforce Area

Workforce Board

One Stop Operation

Job Training Demographics

Business Services

Youth Programs

Service Integration

Local Innovations

Committee Work

Next Year

Retirees

Job Training Participants (PY21)

Adults 242

Dislocated Workers 83

Youth 228

From RPC's Director of Workforce Development

In 2022, as the world bounced back from a global pandemic, American employers felt the pinch of population loss, and job seekers displayed new attitudes towards work.

A decrease in available workers became noticeable as the decades-long decline in birthrates was finally felt, and some states saw residents moving away for new jobs and neighborhoods.

There was also a loss of worker supply as some job seekers decided to work less, some two-income families decided that one wage earner would stay home, and others retired early.

Employers voiced concerns that younger workers who were to fill vacated positions lacked employability, technical, and career skills; and many young men opted out of college altogether.

Those who work in workforce development are aware of the need to provide a response to widespread changes while also keeping in mind the purpose and requirements of WIOA.

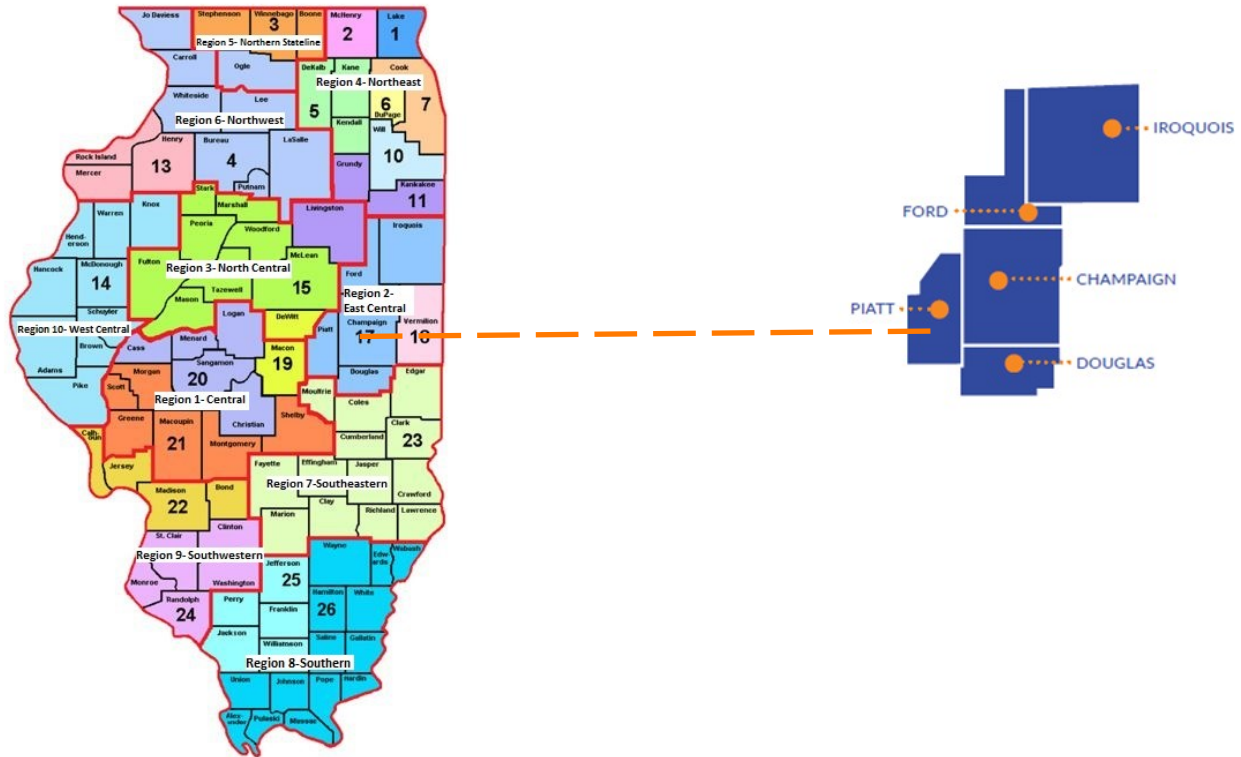
WIOA can address the worker shortage by providing career services, job training, and support to those with barriers to employment. While not a comprehensive tool, it is a practical one.

Investing in human capital does not meet all immediate needs, but it is a part of a long-term and sustainable strategy. By being mission-driven, we can help struggling families get a good job.

East Central Illinois is poised to grow and recover quickly due to its high quality of life, emerging industries, available postsecondary options, and spirit of collaboration.

Alongside community talent attraction and placemaking investments, with your help, workforce development will continue to provide workable solutions to our most pressing challenges.

Local Workforce Area



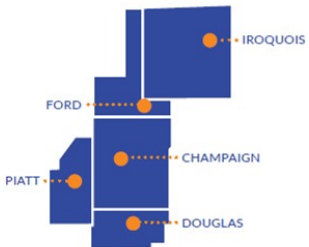
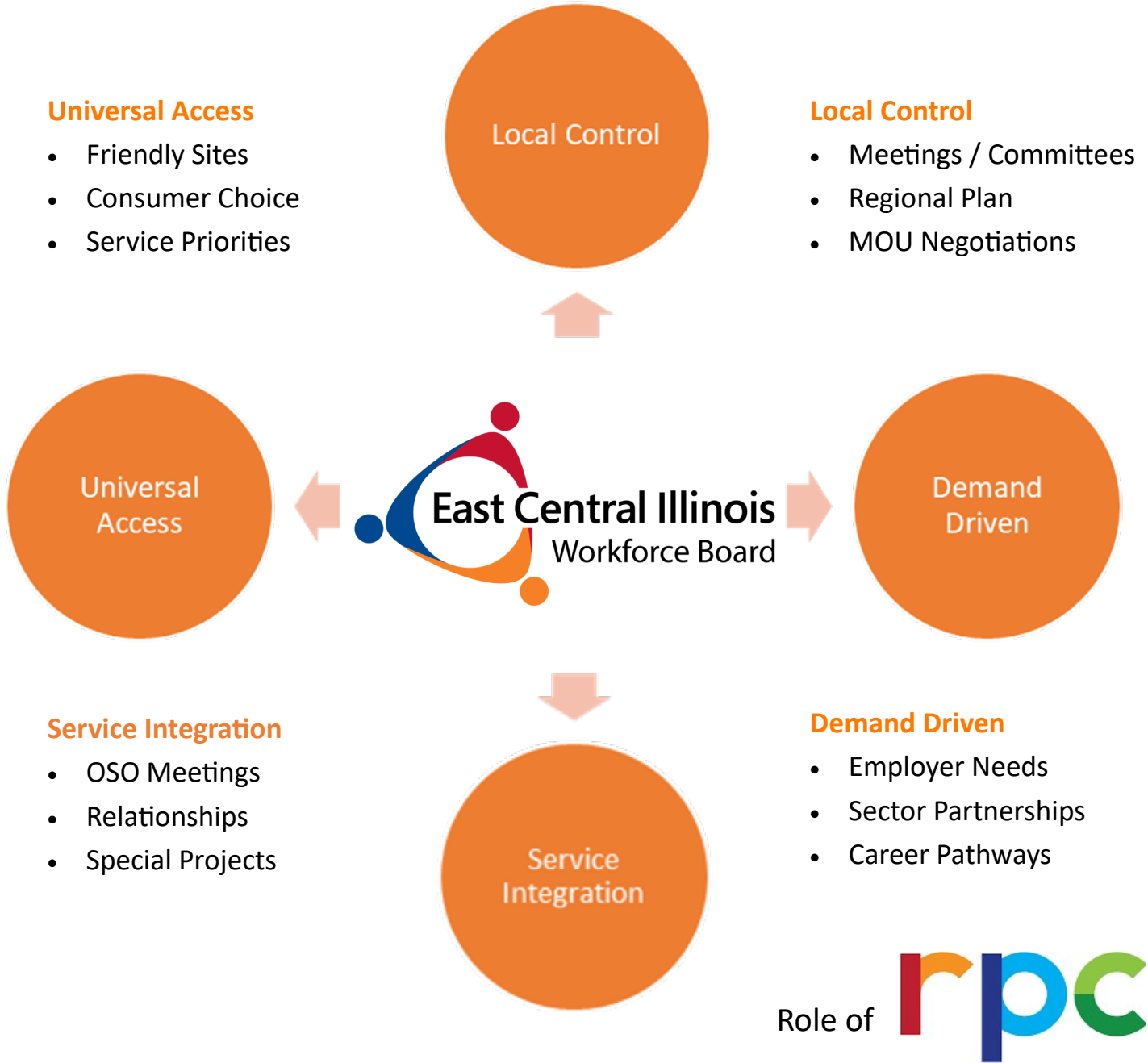
Chief Elected Officials Board

There are 26 local workforce innovation areas in Illinois. LWIA 17 is comprised of five counties: Iroquois, Ford, Champaign, Piatt, and Douglas. Each county has a unique set of economic and social circumstances, but the region as a whole shares leading industries of healthcare, manufacturing, ag tech, construction, logistics, and business services.

To keep up to speed on what is happening in our area, RPC meets bi-monthly with the Chief Elected Officials (the county board chairs and county executive). At these meetings, RPC and the CEOs discuss how to engage residents with the workforce system through One Stop sites, job training, service integration, and the efforts of the Workforce Board.

The CEO Board members provide RPC with feedback on population characteristics, public education, industry and business needs, upcoming events, and special projects. The CEOs support a regional footprint in the local workforce innovation area by connecting East Central Illinois workNet to county stakeholders and organizations.

Workforce Board



- Local Policy Review
- Walk-in Services
- ILDCEO Monitoring
- Referral System
- Budget PY Allocation
- Satellite Offices
- Performance Goals
- Fiscal Integrity
- Training Providers
- Board Staff

One Stop Operation

Career Services

Job Training

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Workforce and Career Development History		



“Career services” are when visitors receive job search assistance, including resume review, labor market information, assessments, and referrals.

“Job training” enhances an individual’s competitiveness in labor markets through vocational education, work experience, and soft and career skill development.

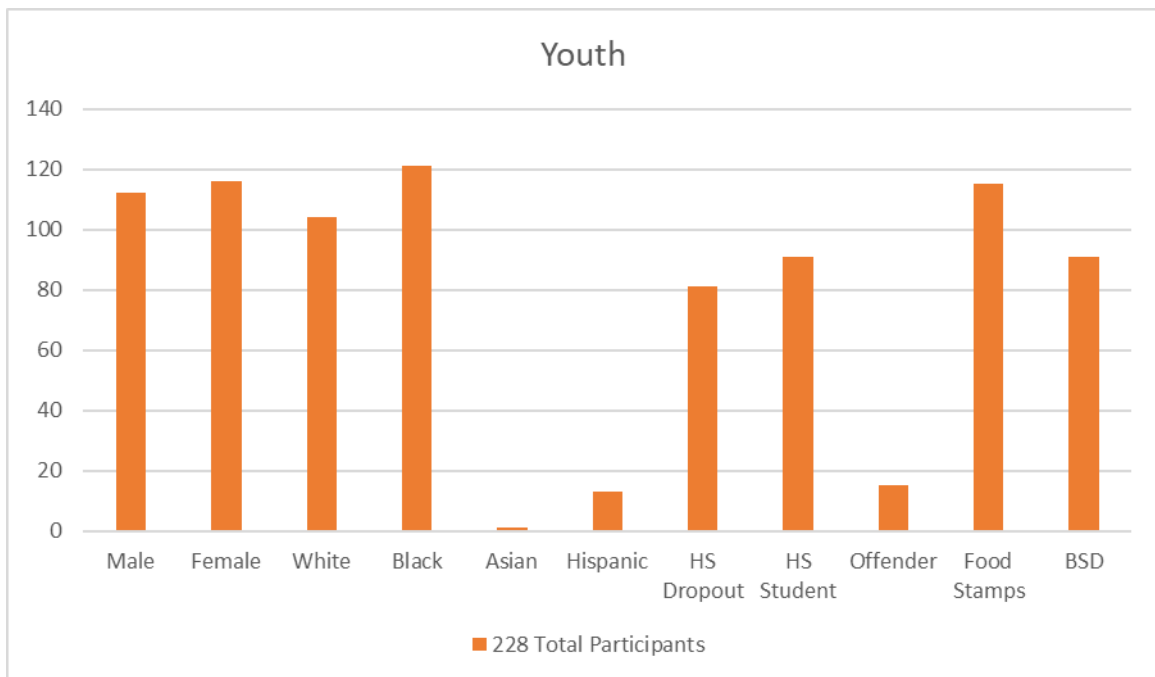
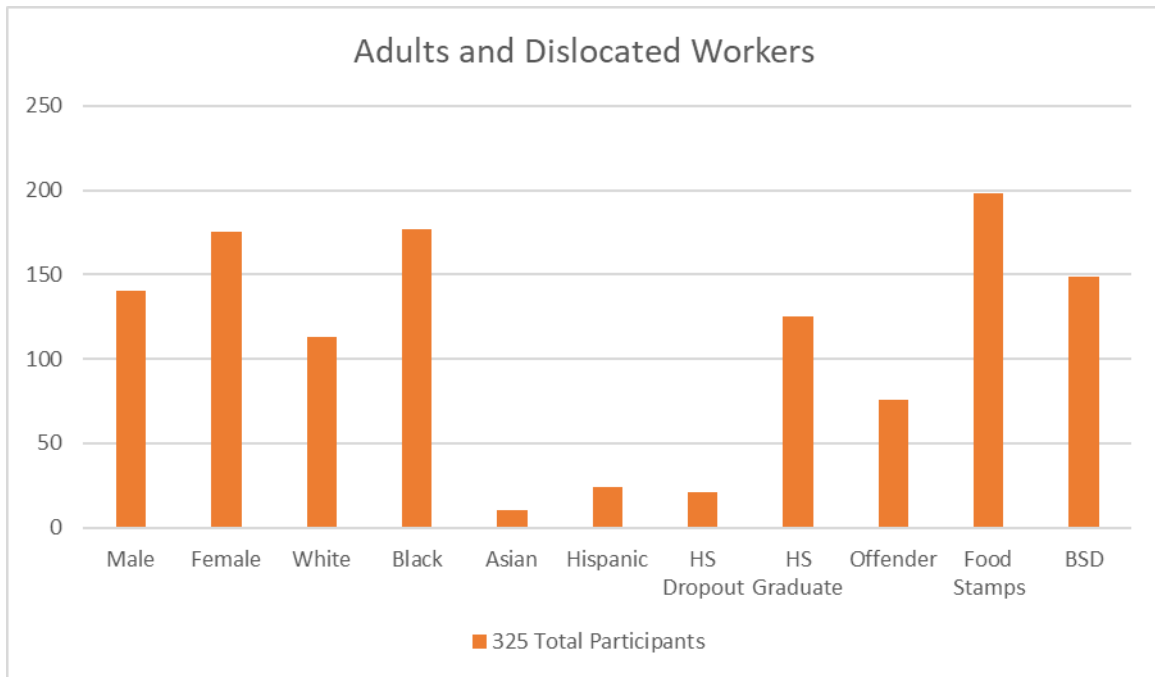
Integrated Services

- Basic Skills
- Disabilities
- Housing Issues
- Unemployment
- Migrant Workers
- Seniors
- At-risk Youth
- Food Assistance
- Entrepreneurship

One Stop Visitors				
Inquiry	UI Benefits	WorkNet Tools	Job Training Help	Job Search
386	1205	112	466	63

*Visitor Tracking from Jan – Oct 2022. Job Search + JobLink visitors combined.

Job Training Demographics



Serving Residents

RPC staff at the comprehensive One Stop in Champaign County (Oyatta Hanny, Daniel Kadi-
ma, and Robert Joe) and RPC staff at One Stop satellite offices in Iroquois, Ford, Piatt, and
Douglas counties serve adult and dislocated workers who are in job training. RPC staff also
make referrals to One Stop partners for additional supportive services. Most youth are served
by community and educational organizations that are funded in part by RPC.

Business Services

On-the-Job Training

In an OJT, an employer provides training to a new employee, and RPC provides supportive services, reimburses the employer for wages paid to the trainee, and works to coordinate services within the local workforce area. We had a successful project this year involving Cassandra Dunham (RPC Staff), Flex-N-Gate, Afghan refugees, The Refugee Center, and Parkland Adult Education.



Incumbent Worker Training

In an IWT project, an employer works with RPC to design a training plan that will lead to employee retention, job creation, and/or an internal promotion and wage gain. With the help of the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce and the Champaign County Economic Development Corporation, our Business Services staff was able to connect with employers and have IWT projects approved by the East Central Illinois Workforce Development Board. It was rewarding to see small businesses take advantage of this grant opportunity.



Job Posting and Recruitment

With recruiting talent being a common concern among employers and stakeholders, it is a good time to remind all employers to go to Illinois Job Link, create an employer account, post jobs, and review resumes. Job seekers who engage the One Stop post their resumes here.



Youth Programs

Youth Provider Kick-off

WIOA's purpose is to increase access to and opportunities for resources needed to be successful in the labor market. RPC provides pass-through funding to community and educational organizations that buy into the purpose of WIOA and commit to investing in youth through 14 elements (seen below). In 2022, RPC's goal was to highlight the purpose of WIOA and help our area's WIOA-funded youth programs integrate those elements into their workforce development activities.



14 WIOA Elements

Tutoring and Study Skills	Alt School and Dropout Aid	Work Experiences	Occupational Skill Training	Education and Work Prep	Leadership Development	Supportive Services
Adult Mentoring	Follow-up Services	Guidance and Counseling	Financial Literacy	Entrepreneur Training	Labor Market Information	Postsecondary Edu Prep

Pictured: 2022 Youth Provider Kick-off (facilitated by Tiffany Nagle, RPC Staff)

Youth Programs

Thank you to all the community and education organizations who are working with the East Central Illinois Workforce Board and RPC to align their youth workforce development programs with WIOA purpose and elements!



Urbana Adult Education



PRINCIPAL'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM

\$950,000+
Committed to Youth Programs in PY21



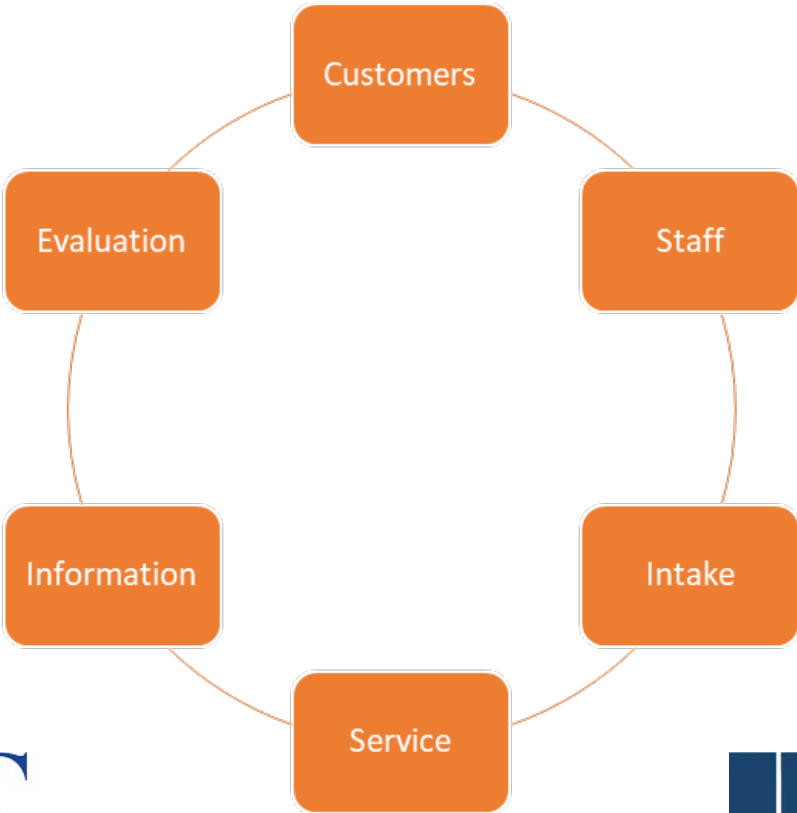
Service Integration

Public Policy

The Governor’s Workforce Commission on Equity & Access met from 2021 – 2022. The charge of the Commission was to create a vision for an equitable, accessible, and effective future state workforce system.

Once the Commission made its recommendations, the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board created a Service Integration Workgroup, which has a charge to convey state-level expectations of local workforce areas.

To address the critically important feature of service integration, we are reviewing the Service Integration Goals (below) from the IWIB and engaging stakeholders at the local level.



Local Innovations



Mobile Workforce Center

The idea for a Mobile Workforce Center grew out of a desire to increase regional visibility of the local public workforce system and to promote our area's target sectors and career pathways. RPC staff are developing a schedule for 2023 where the Center can provide career services via laptops and free Wi-Fi at community events.

Serving Justice-involved People

Launched during Second Chance Month in 2022, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Corrections, RPC began hosting virtual One Stop orientations for returning citizens in the five surrounding correctional institutions.



In collaboration with Champaign County Probation and Court Services, RPC designed and launched a Career Readiness program for people on probation. The program integrates the One Stop's career services and GED / HS Equivalency services from Parkland and Urbana Adult Education.



Apprenticeship Expansion

Thanks to a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, RPC began an apprenticeship capacity-building project. The project's purpose is to encourage collaboration between LWIAs and community colleges, and to develop messaging for employers and job seekers.

Committee Work

MOU

- Partner Engagement
- Service Commitments
- Shared Costs



Business

- Feedback + Focus
- IWT Projects
- OJT Projects



Performance

- Set Annual Goals
- Negotiated with State
- Ongoing Evaluation

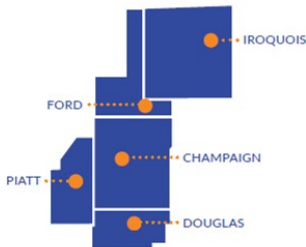


Youth

- Youth Programs
- Gun Violence
- Pre-apprenticeships

2022 Outcomes

- Basic Skills
- Community Coalition
- Champaign Library
- Re-entry Council
- Policy Changes
- Marketing Strategies
- Employer Feedback
- Local Events
- Information Sharing
- Operational Efficiency

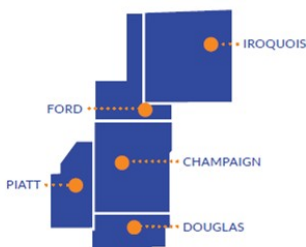


Next Year

What to Expect in 2023

The people involved with East Central Illinois workNet are committed to enhancing the public assistance workforce development system. Some things we are looking forward to in 2023 include:

- Engaging the East Central Illinois Workforce Development Board and Chief Elected Officials via public meetings and committees
- Providing career services to One Stop visitors and enrolling residents into job training throughout the local workforce area
- Creating an inventory of eligible training programs and getting feedback from employers on those training programs
- Hearing from employers about critical occupations, career pathways, and preferred training models
- Working collaboratively with economic development corporations, chambers of commerce, and educational institutions
- Engaging regional stakeholders to develop goals, messaging, and processes for apprenticeship expansion
- Improving service integration through One Stop operator meetings, board feedback, and customer surveys
- Expanding the use of the Mobile Workforce Center and programs that serve justice-involved persons
- Updating the One Stop website and providing additional online resources to promote in-demand jobs and services to job seekers



Retirees



Darlene Kloeppe

Darlene Kloeppe served as the director of the workforce development program at RPC in 2012, and later, as the Champaign County Executive, also served as the Chair of the Chief Elected Officials Board.



Don Munson

Don Munson served as the Douglas County Chairman and was first brought into the East Central Illinois workforce area in 2019. He has been an advocate for Douglas County and worked to build a local workforce coalition.



Jim Mikeworth

Jim Mikeworth served on the Douglas County Board and was Mr. Munson's alternate on the CEO Board. His insights into local communities and passion for young people led to an engaging relationship that will be missed.



Dr. Thomas Ramage

Dr. Thomas Ramage has served on the East Central Illinois Workforce Development Board since its inception. As the President of Parkland College, his leadership provided vision and support for improved service integration.



Aletha Alexander

Aletha Alexander has served on the East Central Illinois Workforce Development Board since its inception. She has been a leader in the One Stop operator consortium as the Rehabilitation Supervisor for IDHS—DRS.

Thank you for your service!



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