



Industry Led. Community Focused.

AUGUST 2024 E-NEWSLETTER

Workforce Development

We're Expanding Statewide!

HIRE360 is thrilled to announce that our workforce program will be expanding statewide thanks to a grant announced by Governor JB Pritzker! What an amazing event hosted by the [Steans Family Foundation](#) at the [Fillmore Center](#) in North Lawndale. We look forward to working with our partner on the Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program and the [548 Foundation](#), to help prepare diverse candidates for great jobs in union clean energy construction. A big thank you to Director Richards and the entire team at the [Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity](#) for working with us on this grant. We would also like to thank [Climate Jobs Illinois](#) and the [Illinois AFL-CIO](#) for the incredible work putting together all the partners on this grant. More to come soon!



Success Story: Marco A. Salinas

Marco A. Salinas, a 24-year-old resident of the Southwest Midway area in Chicago, embarked on a remarkable journey that led him from heavy equipment certification to becoming a roofer apprentice.

Marco's quest began two years ago when he attended ATS in Wisconsin to become heavy equipment certified. His goal was to secure a well-paying job in a union company, but he faced challenges due to the need for personal connections in the industry.



Undeterred, Marco persevered and explored alternative paths to kickstart his career. By the age of 20, Marco had entered the mechanical field, driven by a desire to understand vehicles thoroughly. His knowledge allowed him to avoid costly repairs by diagnosing issues with his own vehicle. Growing up, Marco lived in the 26th and Albany area, but his family eventually moved to Midway Airport, where they purchased a house.

Marco attended Dawes Elementary and later graduated from William J. Bogan high school. Even during high school, he worked to earn his own money. His first job was at McDonald's at the age of 16, followed by a stint at Portillo's when he turned 18. Determined to transition into construction and labor, Marco persisted despite lacking initial knowledge in the field. But that all changed once he came across HIRE360 through an online search.

After attending his first orientation session with HIRE360, Marco quickly learned the value of having a case manager guide him through exploring the various unionized construction trades and their respective application processes. After exploring several different trade opportunities, Marco knew the [Local 11 Roofers](#) was the perfect fit for him. Just last month, Marco secured a position as a [Local 11 Roofer](#) apprentice and is already gaining valuable on-the-job experience.

Marco expresses gratitude for the chance to pursue his dream job. He now looks forward to a fulfilling career as a roofer apprentice. His message to others: "Godspeed to all who apply for their dream jobs." Marco's journey exemplifies resilience, adaptability, and the power of seizing opportunities. We wish him continued success in his new role!

Success Story: Kyle Irvin

Kyle Irvin, a 39-year-old father of five, was raised on the South Side of Chicago. He graduated from Dunbar

Vocational Career Academy in 2003, specializing in brick masonry. However, in 2005, life's challenges led him down a difficult path, resulting in a prison sentence. After serving his time, Kyle worked diligently as a delivery driver for two restaurants, determined to turn his life around.



In 2024, while watching television, Kyle saw a news segment about HIRE360. Inspired by their mission, he decided to return to his high school roots and reignite his passion for the trades.

Kyle joined HIRE360's Take Charge Electrical Vehicle cohort, a partnership with [ComEd](#), where he engaged in test preparation, financial literacy workshops, tools workshops, and resume workshops. He toured the Electricians trade school and ComEd, and earned several certificates, including Flaggers, Fall Protection, Scaffold & Hazard Awareness, Rigging Hazard Awareness, OSHA 10, and CPR & First Aid.

During a tour of [IBEW Local 134](#), Kyle told his case manager that he joined HIRE360 because he "wants to make something of himself" and hopes to inspire his eldest son to join the trades through HIRE360 as well.

Kyle's involvement in the Take Charge Electrical Vehicle cohort provided valuable networking opportunities, leading to his sponsorship within the Local 76 [Laborers](#). He has been a Laborer for a month now and is very happy with his decision, embracing a brighter future for himself and his family.

CBS 2 Interview

Thank you to [CBS 2](#) for getting to know one of our awesome candidates, Nicholas Gamino, now a second-year apprentice with [IBEW Local 134](#). Thank you to Illinois Works for helping support his pre-apprenticeship training. He is working on [Related Midwest's](#) Roosevelt Square project. Stay tuned to watch the story soon!



DNC Tour

Thank you to the [Democratic National Convention](#) for hosting our Illinois Works pre-apprenticeship candidates for a tour of their constitution site at the United Center. A big thank you to [McHugh Construction](#) and their partners who took our candidates to see the work being done. On the tour candidates asked questions of project managers to get a better understanding of all the work that goes into a project like this one



Quantum Leap

Great to be with the [Governor Pritzker](#) again for another exciting [quantum announcement](#)! So many of our partners - [Related Midwest](#), [Clayco](#), [Chicago Federation of Labor](#), [Illinois AFL-CIO](#), [P33](#), and [Current](#) - on this

game changing investment on the East Side.



Clean Infrastructure Workforce Series

Thank you, [Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance](#), for hosting a great discussion at our training center as part of their quarterly Clean Infrastructure Workforce Series.



Apprenticeship Program Openings

HIRE360 is excited to announce our trade partners are accepting applications for their apprenticeship programs:

Bricklayers:

- Bricklayers create architectural works of art with stone and tile. As with all trades, you should be prepared to work hard, outside and at heights on a regular basis to succeed in this trade. Applicants will be accepted throughout the year. Applications will be available Monday through Friday between 8:30 am to 3:00 pm at the DCTC office or online at www.bac2school.org. Secure your spot by applying today.

Electricians IBEW 134:

- Electricians assemble, install, maintain, and test electrical equipment and wiring systems in residential, commercial, and industrial settings. The apprentice program is five years in duration, and is registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training. The program consists of on-the-job training provided by union electrical contractors, and related classroom instruction. **Apply before August 7th** to secure an aptitude testing date this year.

Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council

- As a Union Carpenter, your essential responsibilities include constructing, repairing, and installing various structures and fixtures made of wood and other materials. You'll work with precise measurements, cut materials, shape components, and assemble them according to specified plans and designs. Applications opening September 9.

Heat and Frost Insulators Local 17:

- The vital work of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers has saved energy, saved money, and saved lives. Heat and Frost Insulators Local 17 offers an excellent five-year apprenticeship program that is now open for online applications.

For those individuals interested in applying and needing a letter of recommendation, please contact your HIRE360 Case Manager today or email us at info@HIRE360Chicago.com.

Business Development

Cook County Small Business Source

The [Cook County Small Business](#)

Source is an award-winning program that strives to support, grow and elevate small business, the backbone of Cook County's economy. This program directly connects small business owners with expert guidance and resources needed to take their businesses to the next level.



Among the organizations joining the Small Business Source this year is HIRE360. On July 23rd, Cook County hosted a Referral Partner Onboarding session to allow existing and new partner organizations the opportunity to get to know each other and learn about the variety of small business services that they each provide. The session was led by Domini Gamble, Senior Program Manager. HIRE360 was represented by Dave Thomas, Manager of Business Development and Supply Chain.

The Network

The Cook County Small Business Source convenes a network of leading Business Support Organizations (BSOs) to provide direct support to the Cook County small business community. By partnering with trusted organizations, the Source connects small business owners with the expertise they need to succeed. Among the BSOs that are a part of the Source are Allies for Community Business, Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council, Women's Business Development Center, the Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce, and many more. HIRE360 is among a group of organizations called "Specialty Partner" organizations because of their connection to the construction industry, and particularly clean energy construction projects.

Cook County funds most of the grants and services related to the Cook County Small Business Source with support from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). In addition, the program receives support from the State of Illinois Community Navigator Program, We Rise Together, and the Fund for Equitable Growth.

REDefine SOUTHSIDE PARTNERS Joint Venture

The REDefine SOUTHSIDE PARTNERS Joint Venture team (RSP-JV) comprised of Patrick Engineering, Inc., WSP USA, Inc, and Infrastructure Engineering, Inc. was selected by the CTA to take on construction management responsibilities as part of the team tasked to deliver the enormous Red Line Extension transit project.

In support of this project, they are building out a new project office located at 11203 S. Corliss Ave, Chicago, IL. They held a "Meet the Contractors" event on July 19th at the



former Off Track Betting facility.

Attendees got to hear from Don Peterson, Project Manager with WSP, and learn about this unique opportunity and the bid packages that come with it, including:

- Demolition
- Carpentry
- Flooring
- Security
- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Painting
- Furniture Assembly
- Fire Alarm
- Signage
- Cleaning
- Mechanical/HVAC
- Masonry

Terry Delaney of Top Flooring and Melvin McHenry of Mr.Klean janitorial services were among the contractors who were interested in being a part of this project and becoming clients of HIRE360. Business Development Specialist, Stephen Brown, attended the event and met with them and several other contractors from this Pullman community, informing them of the services of HIRE360.

Youth Engagement

Thank you to our summer intern hosts!

As we enter our final week for our summer internships, we want to take this opportunity to say thanks to some of our partners that agreed to host interns. [Related Midwest](#), [GI Stone](#) and [Twenty Eleven Construction](#) provided safe spaces and great learning environments for young people to learn about the Construction industry. Students also learned about project management, work readiness and financial literacy. HIRE360 values your leadership and support of our youth engagement initiatives!





Our Mission Is to Expand Employment Opportunities

IN THE NEWS

[Central Illinois receiving \\$4.7M grant for clean energy pre-apprenticeship program](#) | WAND-TV (Decatur, IL), July 9.

HIRE360 will recruit, prescreen and provide free training for future clean energy workers in the central Illinois region.



[Read the full article here.](#)



[Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago](#) (BBBSChi) makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers (“Bigs”) and children (“Littles”) from age seven through high school graduation. BBBSChi currently serves more than 4,000 children, families, and volunteers in Metro Chicago across four counties: Cook, DuPage, and Lake Counties in Illinois and Indiana.



Black Wall Design Co.

[Black Wall Design Co. LLC.](#) is a general contracting and renovation firm, licensed in the city of Chicago with nearly 15 years of experience. They have extensive knowledge in interior renovation, interior build-out, and framing. They bring design concepts to life in commercial and residential developments by utilizing their in-house design team that creates experiences through colors and textures. The company was founded by

We're partnering with BBBsChi to help match more mentors with kids in our community. You have the opportunity to help shape a child's future for the better by inspiring positive change and empowering them to achieve what they never dreamed possible. And the best part is, it's a lot of fun! Help start a Little on their path to Big things at bbbschgo.org/volunteer.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago has partnered with HIRE360 by completing a MOU to help clients learn how to get into the unionized construction trades.

Dareon E. Woodard, CEO.

Core Competencies:

- Rough & Finish Carpentry
- Interior Build-out
- Framing
- Painting
- Flooring
- Doors, windows, & hardware

Past Projects:

- IL Dept. of Natural Resources
- IL Dept. of Revenue
- Children's Museum of Oak Park
- Methodist Youth Service Inc.
- 7323 Chicago Cafe
- Boost Mobile
- Lynwood Fire Department

Differentiators:

Black Wall Design is MBE, DBE, and Lead-Safe Certified. Their executive team has over 15 years of experience in construction and renovations in the Chicagoland area and brings years of leadership and management skills from companies like the largest online retailer to financial institutions. They are a "customer experience" focused firm committed to delivering on the customer promise with integrity.

HIRE360

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