



## Industry Led. Community Focused.

JULY 2025 E-NEWSLETTER

### Workforce Development

#### Success Story: Amaury Dominguez

Amaury Dominguez from Chicago's Back of the Yards neighborhood is already laying the groundwork for a career in carpentry. After working jobs in custodial services, he was eager for something more stable, and more fulfilling. That drive led him to HIRE360, where he joined the [Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#). Through site visits, hands-on training, and personalized support such as help with applications to recommendation letters, Amaury found his fit in the Carpenters Union. Last month, he began his pre-apprenticeship with the [Mid-America Carpenters Union](#), stepping confidently into the trades. With sharpened skills, new confidence, and a clear path ahead, Amaury is ready to build a future that lasts.



#### Success Story: Dagoberto Castillo

After years of working as a 1099 subcontractor in unsafe environments, Dagoberto Castillo knew it was time for a change, especially with a 2-year-old son counting on him. Encouraged by a friend who found success through HIRE360, Dagoberto connected with case manager Jonathan Luviano and enrolled in the 2025 [Take Charge EV Charging Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#). The program offered hands-on training, certification courses like OSHA 10 and Excavation Safety, and a pathway into the electrical vehicle and green energy industry. He realized that many of the practices on previous job sites weren't safe, and the program helped him gain a new understanding of what was possible for his future.

Today, Dagoberto is taking the next step in his career as a new member of the Electricians Union, [IBEW Local 701](#). Through Take Charge, Dagoberto also learned about [ComEd](#)'s pivotal role in expanding Illinois' clean energy future, upgrading infrastructure, rolling out smart grid technology, and aiming for net-zero emissions by 2050. With new skills, industry certifications, and a union future ahead of him, Dagoberto is proud to be on a path that offers long-term stability and purpose. He emphasized how this opportunity wouldn't have been possible without HIRE360 and ComEd and hopes his fellow graduates can also apply what they've learned to build safe, meaningful careers.



### Illinois Works Will County Pre-Apprenticeship Program

HIRE360 proudly kicked off the inaugural [Illinois Works Will County Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#), welcoming 21 motivated candidates who are ready to explore careers in the skilled trades. This new initiative is designed to equip participants with the tools, training, and industry-recognized certifications they need to launch meaningful careers in construction and beyond.

As part of their hands-on learning experience, participants recently visited the [Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local 21](#) Training Center. There, they rolled up their sleeves for interactive demos, explored apprenticeship opportunities, and gained firsthand knowledge of what it takes to succeed in the union trades. Thank you to the Bricklayers Union for the warm welcome and for investing your time and expertise in shaping the next generation of trades professionals!



## Take Charge EV Program Tours

Thanks to our partnership with [ComEd](#), our [Take Charge EV Program](#) participants took part in a hands-on tour with the [Chicago Transit Authority \(CTA\)](#) and [Heat and Frost Insulators Local 17](#). The visits gave candidates a first-hand look at the technology behind CTA's sustainable transit system and opened their eyes to the growing career pathways in transportation and clean energy. They also had the chance to engage directly with current apprentices at Heat and Frost Insulators, asking thoughtful questions and hearing real stories about what it takes to succeed in the field. "It was inspiring to hear from people who were once in our shoes and are now thriving in the trades," one participant shared.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to CTA and Heat and Frost Insulators Local 17 for your warm welcome and your commitment to educating the next generation of tradespeople. Your support helps shape brighter futures!

## F.H. Paschen Hosts Informative Industry Session with HIRE360

[F.H. Paschen](#) welcomed potential candidates and contractors to an engaging and informative session that offered attendees a closer look at F.H. Paschen's operations, upcoming projects, and the core values that drive their work in the concrete and construction industries. HIRE360 was honored to participate in the session by sharing insights of our workforce development initiatives, training programs, and the support services we offer to individuals pursuing careers in the trades. Following the presentation, HIRE360 representatives connected directly with job seekers and contractors, offering guidance, answering questions, and building meaningful relationships to support future collaboration and career growth.

A big thank you to F.H. Paschen for hosting and for your continued commitment to building a stronger, more connected workforce.

## Exploring the Trades with IUOE Local 150

Our candidates recently had an incredible opportunity to dive into the world of heavy equipment and skilled trades during an immersive tour of the [IUOE Operating Engineers Local 150](#) Training Center! From exploring career



pathways to stepping into the operator's seat — virtually, of course — participants got hands-on with cutting-edge virtual reality crane simulators, testing their skills and gaining a real feel for the trade.

A huge thank you to Local 150 for the warm welcome and unforgettable experience. Your commitment to training the next generation of skilled workers is truly inspiring!



## Workshops

HIRE360 Chicago invites you to our commercial learners permit test prep info session! Are you a HIRE360 candidate seeking a Commercial Learners Permit and interested in construction apprenticeships? Join us to learn about the process and eligibility.

Event Highlights:

- Permit process overview
- Eligibility criteria
- Q&A with experts

Learn more: Contact your case manager to join our next session. We're here to support you in prepping for the next class. We look forward to seeing you there!



## Mentorship: Grill & Build: A Successful Evening of Networking and Connection

We recently hosted our exclusive Grill & Build networking event at the Training and Business Development Center, bringing together signatory contractors and union card holders for an evening of connection, collaboration, and mentorship. Guests met potential hires, shared workforce needs, and explored future partnerships — while enjoying BBQ, backyard games, and meaningful conversation. Special thanks to Gregg Ereio of

[American Backhoe](#), Anna Hall of [P&H Divine Plumbing](#) Mentorship, and our own Harry Bailey, who helped organize the event and cooked the incredible food. The night reflected HIRE360's ongoing commitment to building strong industry relationships.

## Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program Highlights



### Jaden Dandridge Success Story - Got A Job!

We're proud to highlight Jaden Dandridge, a recent graduate of our [Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#) from Urbana, Illinois.

For Jaden, the trades weren't just a career option, they were a calling. After working in roofing and taking courses through [Parkland College](#), he was determined to join [Heat & Frost Insulators Local 18](#). Climate Works gave him the structure, support, and real-world training he needed to turn that goal into a reality.

Now a proud member of Local 18, Jaden is building more than just a career, he's building the future he's always envisioned. His story is a powerful reminder of what's possible with focus, preparation, and the right opportunities.

### Donald Noordhof Success Story - Got A Job!

When Donald relocated to Peoria looking for a fresh start, he found more than just a new home, he found a pathway to a career. With support from [Pathway Ministries](#), Donald began building a new future, starting with earning his CDL and completing the Highway Construction Careers program at [Illinois Central College \(ICC\)](#). But it was his experience in ICC's second cohort of the [Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#) that truly launched his next chapter.

Through the Climate Works program, Donald gained hands-on experience, technical skills, and the connections that helped him break into the trades. Today, he's a proud union [Mid-America Carpenter's](#) Apprentice with [Local 237](#), helping build solar field projects across Central Illinois. His journey shows how workforce programs like Climate Works are opening doors to lasting careers in clean energy and construction across the state.



### Nathan Gray Success Story - Got A Job!

We're proud to highlight Nathan Gray, a recent graduate of our [Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#), delivered in partnership with the [East Central Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council](#) in Danville.

After spending years on the road as a truck driver, Nathan was ready for something more stable and fulfilling. He enrolled in our program, gained the skills and support he needed, and is now a proud member of [Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 157](#).



Nathan's journey is proof that with the right training and guidance, it's never too late to start a new chapter.



## ICC Climate Works Cohort 3 Graduation

10 participants from the [Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#) graduated from [Illinois Central College](#) after completing hands-on training in clean energy construction. Over six weeks, students completed the Multi-Craft Core (MC3) Curriculum and earned certifications in OSHA-10 and CPR/First Aid. With support from [Goodwill Industries of Central Illinois](#) and dedicated instructors, they studied math for the trades, gained experience with hand and power tools, and visited apprenticeship training sites and active job sites to prepare for careers in the union trades.

[Representative Darin LaHood](#) visited the classroom during the program, where students shared their personal stories and showcased their completed projects. One graduate, now a member of [Great Plains Laborers District Council](#), expressed deep gratitude for the doors this program opened, saying it helped him move from “just a job” to a meaningful career. Congratulations to these graduates; we’re proud to support the future of clean energy in Illinois!

## Recruitment

### Trade Openings!

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

[Operating Engineers Local 150:](#)



- Operate Heavy Equipment with Local 150's ASIP is a premier training program designed for today's construction professionals—including heavy equipment operators, technicians, drillers, and construction material inspectors. Work on job sites like highways, tunnels, and power plants. This union produces rock, sand, and gravel for construction. **Applications are accepted online through their official website.**

#### Pipefitters Local 597:

- Are you interested in becoming a Pipefitter? This union is now accepting applications for a 5-year program with two tracks: building trades pipefitter or HVAC service technician. Contact your HIRE360 case manager for application details and a letter of recommendation.

#### Roofers Local 11. Roofing and Waterproofing:

- If you enjoy working outdoors and often at heights, consider becoming a roofer and waterproofer. They perform various jobs, including applying hot and cold built-up roofing, single-ply roofing systems, shingle, tile, and slate roofs, waterproofing foundations, plaza decks, and traffic coatings, lining ponds and tanks, and installing environmentally friendly green roofing systems.

#### Bricklayers:

- Create architectural structures using stone and tile. Work outdoors and at heights. Applications are accepted year-round at the Bricklayers District Council Training Center in Addison, IL. The new class begins early next year.

#### Electricians IBEW Local Union 701 (DuPage County):

- Work with this union to install and maintain electrical systems in buildings. There is no residency requirement but most of the work is in DuPage County. There are two training programs available: commercial electrician and telecommunications electrician.

#### Sheet Metal Workers - Local 265:

- This primarily suburban work involves designing, fabricating, and installing HVAC systems, metal siding, and roofing.

#### Painters and Drywall Finishers:

- This paint work includes applying paint, varnish, and coatings to surfaces. The drywall work includes installing wall coverings and performing drywall taping and finishing.

#### Electricians - IBEW Local 176 (Joliet):

- This work involves bringing power to homes and businesses. Applications are accepted every Monday from 8 - 11:30 AM and 1 - 4 PM in Joliet.

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](mailto:info@HIRE360Chicago.com).

## **Get Ready for Open Trades Testing with Our Test Prep!**

Are you gearing up for the upcoming open trades testing? We've got you covered! Our comprehensive test prep program is designed to help you succeed and achieve your goals.

With expert guidance, practice materials, and valuable tips, you'll be well-prepared to tackle the test with confidence. Don't miss this opportunity to boost your skills and increase your chances of success.

Reach out to your case manager today to learn more about our test prep program and get started on the path to a brighter future in the trades!



## CMSDC Chicago Business Opportunity Forums Speaker Series

Deborah Whitaker, HIRE360's Director of Business Development and Diverse Supply Chain recently joined a dynamic panel at the launch of the [Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council's \(CMSDC\)](#) Chicago Business Opportunity Forums Speaker Series. The session, titled "Competing in a New World: Challenges, Opportunities, and Solutions," also featured Cheryl A. Harris, Senior Vice President Procurement at [Allstate](#), and Greg Willis, Vice President and Counsel at [Phoenix Strategies](#), with [WVON 1690-AM](#)'s Rufus Williams serving as moderator.

Held at the [AON](#) Center's State Street Conference Center, the conversation dove into pressing business issues including the growing attacks on DEI programs, the future of supplier diversity, and what the remnants of DEI might look like going forward. Panelists also explored the importance of technical support for small businesses, adapting corporate procurement strategies, and navigating today's complex economic and social climate.

The audience included a diverse mix of business owners and corporate procurement professionals from companies such as [BP](#), [Northern Trust](#), Aon, and Allstate. This powerful event marked the kickoff of CMSDC's new speaker series, which aims to spotlight actionable solutions for businesses competing in today's evolving marketplace.

## Chicago Community Builders Collective to Host Outreach Event at HIRE360





## Outreach #14

### Bally's Chicago Casino Project

#### Connecting with Prime Contractors and MBE/WBE Businesses

The Chicago Community Builders Collective (CCBC) is thrilled about the opportunity to collaborate with you on this historic project. The CCBC is preparing to release the next round of packages for the Bally's Chicago Casino project. Please join us on Thursday, July 17, 2025, for our next outreach event. This session aims to provide an overview of the scopes of work and any requirements for project consideration. Bally's Chicago Casino will be a flagship location for Bally's Corporation, creating a world-class casino, entertainment district, and hotel.

#### Scopes of Work:

- 05B.6: Miscellaneous Metals – Event Center
- 05D.1: Cold-Formed Metal Framing (CFMF)
- 07B.1: Air Vapor Barrier (AVB)
- 07C.1: Metal Panels
- 07D.1: Roofing
- 07F.1: Spray Insulation
- 07G.1: Slab Edge Fire Safing
- 07I.1: Exterior Plaster and Direct Applied Exterior Finish System (DEFS)
- 09A.4: Drywall and Rough Carpentry – Event Center
- 10C.1: Operable Partitions
- 11D.1: Food Service – Back of House, Gaming and Lobby, Hotel, and Event Center
- 22A.6: Plumbing – Event Center
- 23A.7: Mechanical – Event Center
- 25A.1: Controls
- 26A.8: Electrical – Event Center
- 27A.1: Low Voltage Communications – Back of House, Gaming and Lobby, and Parking
- 27A.3: Low Voltage Communications – Event Center

**Thursday, July 17, 2025**  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CT

**HIRE360**

2540 South State St.  
Chicago, IL 60616

Limited street parking available. We encourage public transportation and rideshare.



Scan to RSVP

Click to RSVP

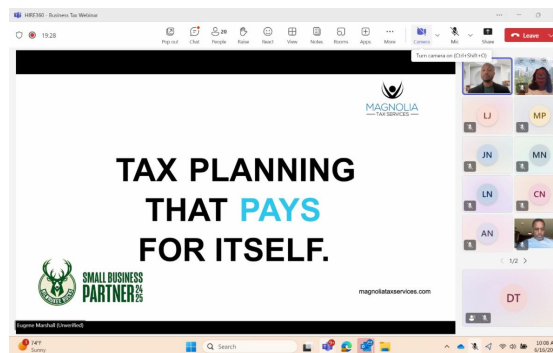
**Who is the CCBC?** The Chicago Community Builders Collective (CCBC) is a minority-led construction partnership that includes a joint venture partnership of minority and women-owned businesses as the majority: Brown & Momen, d'Escoto, Inc., Gilbane Building Company, Milhouse Engineering & Construction, Inc., Powers & Sons, Riteway Huggins Construction Services, SQN Associates, and UJAMAA Construction Inc.



Click [this link](#) to RSVP.

## Tax Smart Entrepreneurship

HIRE360 Business Development hosted their first in a series of monthly events on various topics relevant to their capacity building and technical assistance services. Each webinar (or live event) will provide pertinent information designed to improve business effectiveness, operational best practices, and improving client relations.



The first event featured a presentation by Eugene Marshall, Founder and CEO of [Magnolia Tax Services](#), on how to utilize tax planning as a tool for improving business operations. Marshall is an Enrolled Agent (EA) and is federally authorized to represent taxpayers before the IRS and has unlimited representation rights. He specializes in advanced tax strategies to reduce his client's tax liability through effective tax planning. In this webinar, he discussed topics such as tax services, bookkeeping, succession planning and more.

If you missed out on this webinar you can still view it [here](#).

Future Business Development events will feature presentations from HIRE360 partner organizations, professional service providers, or simply just for networking.

To learn more, contact Dave Thomas, Manager of Business Development and Supply Chain at [\(312\) 575-2520](#) or [dthomas@HIRE360Chicago.com](mailto:dthomas@HIRE360Chicago.com).



## Aviation Careers Partnership

Between January and April, more than 300 [Chicago Public Schools](#) counselors visited 8 apprenticeship training centers as part of the Aviation Careers Partnership, a collaboration between HIRE360, CPS, [Chicago Teachers Union](#), and the [Chicago Department of Aviation](#).

Counselors had the opportunity to tour facilities and engage directly with training leaders from:

- IBEW Local 134
- Painters District Council
- Operating Engineers Local 150
- Carpenters Union
- Bricklayers
- Elevator Constructors
- Pipefitters Local 597
- LiUNA Laborers

By strengthening awareness of career pathways in the trades, especially those connected to Chicago's aviation sector, we're helping educators guide students toward long-term, high-quality career opportunities.

Check out the recap video at [this link](#).

## Laborer Trainee Program Kicks Off

We welcomed a new group of students and their families for orientation at the [LiUNA Training Center](#) as they prepared to begin the Laborer Trainee Program. In partnership with [CPS](#), [Chicago Teachers Union](#), the [City of Chicago's Streets & Sanitation Department](#), and [LiUNA Local 1001](#), this program offers hands-on experience and a pathway into the skilled trades.

During the orientation, students and parents toured the training facility, learned about their responsibilities for the weeks ahead, and heard directly from past participants about what to expect. We're excited to support these young leaders as they take their first steps toward a rewarding career in public service and the laborer trades.





## Our Mission is to Expand Employment Opportunities

### IN THE NEWS

*HIRE360 Featured in Statewide Clean Energy Workforce Expansion Announcement | Illinois Business Journal*

HIRE360 was highlighted as one of 27 recipients awarded funding through the Equitable Energy Future Grant Program, announced by Governor J.B. Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). The \$23 million investment is part of the state's broader strategy to build a stronger, more accessible clean energy workforce through the landmark [Climate and Equitable Jobs Act \(CEJA\)](#).

This funding will support HIRE360's continued efforts to connect more individuals across Illinois to career training opportunities in the trades and clean energy sector.

Read more [here](#).



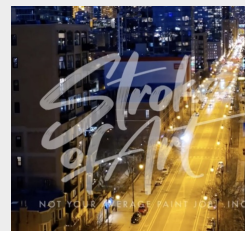
27 Equitable Energy Future Grants awarded; application for Round Three launched



Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) have announced 27 awards totaling \$23 million through the Equitable Energy Future Grant Program as part of a larger strategy to equitably grow the clean energy workforce in Illinois through the landmark Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA).



**Greater Englewood  
Chamber of Commerce &**



**Stroke of Art – Where  
Craftsmanship Meets**



## GE Foundation

We are proud to collaborate with the [Greater Englewood Chamber of Commerce & GE Foundation](#), an organization committed to advancing economic growth and innovation on Chicago's South Side. Since its founding in 2015, the Chamber has supported local entrepreneurs and business owners with the tools, training, and connections needed to thrive, building a stronger Englewood from the inside out.

Our new Memorandum of Understanding marks the next step in this shared mission. Together, we're working to connect local residents with meaningful careers in the unionized trades while continuing to invest in small business success. From AI workshops and business education courses to pre-apprenticeship training, this partnership is about creating real opportunities that lead to long-term prosperity. This work will be on full display at the upcoming Future of Commerce Summit on July 21, 2025: the Chamber's annual gathering designed to build community, demystify technology, and celebrate local innovation.

Learn more at [gechamber.com](https://gechamber.com).

## Opportunity

Dwayne Ferrell, owner and operator of Stroke of Art, knows that transforming a space takes more than just paint and wood, it takes precision, creativity, and a commitment to quality. Specializing in interior and exterior painting and finish carpentry, Stroke of Art blends artistry with skilled craftsmanship to bring client visions to life. From residential homes to commercial spaces, their projects are built to last and designed to inspire.

When Dwayne connected with HIRE360's Business Development team, he was looking for more than just new contracts. He wanted the tools to grow and compete. With support from HIRE360, Stroke of Art received back-office assistance, MBE and Section 3 certification guidance, and networking opportunities with developers and other contractors across the city. This support is helping open doors to larger projects and new business relationships.

### Core Services Offered by Stroke of Art:

- Interior & Exterior Painting: High-quality finishes for residential, commercial, and industrial projects.
- Custom Buildouts & Design: Framing, drywall, trim, molding, and complete space transformations.
- Finish Carpentry: Precision installation of cabinetry, doors, windows, staircases, and more.
- Surface Prep & Wall Coverings: Skim coating, sanding, priming, and specialty wall finishes.
- Project Management & Design Consultation: From concept to completion, delivering on-time and on-budget.

Stroke of Art operates under NAICS Codes 238320 (Painting and Wall Covering Contractors) and 238350 (Finish Carpentry Contractors).

For more information, contact Stroke of Art at [\(773\) 930-6365](tel:7739306365) or email [strokeofart2012@yahoo.com](mailto:strokeofart2012@yahoo.com).

# HIRE360

Newsletter Sign Up





Try email marketing for free today!