



Is this program a good fit for me?

The [Chicagoland CareerPathways](#) directory contains a lot of information about different programs. However, the best way to truly understand if a program is a good fit is to contact them.

Below are some questions you may want to ask to better understand the specifics of the program, and whether it's a good fit for you. You may also want to write some of your own before you call.

Who should I contact?

Each program in this directory has a contact person at the bottom of the program details page who is available to answer your questions. In general, people with the following titles can answer your questions:

- Program Manager
- Student Services Representative
- Program Coordinator
- Director of Programming

How can the program support me?

Some programs offer supportive services like connections to food, housing, transportation, childcare, etc. You can ask if they can connect you to services you may need.

- Does your program support people who need help with _____?
- If so, what do I need to do to receive support?

How much will I earn or spend?

- How do I pay for the program?
- If I can use FAFSA or WIOA for the program, can someone assist me in applying for those?
- What type of documentation do I need to cover the cost?
- If this is a paid program, do I need a bank account or other documentation to receive payment?

What is the time commitment? What will I be doing?

- What does a normal week look like for a participant?
- Is there anything I will need to complete outside of the training/class time? If so, how many hours does that normally take?
- What is your attendance policy?

There's more on
the next page!

How will the program *and* employers treat someone with my background?

Some programs specifically recruit people of underrepresented identities. If any of the statements below apply to you, you may want to ask more questions of the program.

I am an English Language Learner.

- Is the program offered in my language? Do the instructors speak my language?
- Are program materials translated into my language?
- Are there services for people whose first language is not English?
- Do I have to have a certain level of language proficiency for this program or career?

I have a history of justice involvement.

- Are people with my background eligible for the training program?
- Are people with my background eligible for employment in this career field?
- What are some common issues people with my background may have in this program and/or career field?
- What supports are offered to people with my background?

General questions

- What are some qualities of successful participants in your program?
- What are some things that make people struggle in your program?
- What does employment look like after completing your program?
- Who are some of the employers that hire your participants?
- Are there any alumni that I can speak to about your program?
- If there is one thing I should know about this program before applying, what is it?
- Anything else I should be thinking about or considering?

I am undocumented.

- What documentation do I need to participate in the program?
- What type of documentation will I need for employment in this career?

I have a disability.

- What accommodations are available for people who have my disability?
- What type of documentation do I need to participate in the program?
- Are people who have the same disability as me often hired in this career field? If not, why not?

I do not have a high school diploma or GED.

- Am I eligible for the training program?
- Am I eligible for employment in this career field?
- If not, what are some steps I could take to make myself eligible?
- What are some resources available to me?