

Low-barrier career pathway
options for Chicagoland
young adults

[Learn More](#)



What if
a four-year degree program
isn't right for me right now?

I need...
a chance to
explore a career
field

In Chicago, there are many short-term training programs that open the door to exciting career paths.

Progressive Post-Secondary Pathways - What?

Progressive

Post-Secondary Pathways
are low barrier to entry to
high growth career
trajectory fields.

- Low Barrier to entry means that an Associate's Degree or less is needed for entry in the field.
- High growth trajectory fields are determined by labor market analysis of the Chicagoland area.

Chicagoland CareerPathways - Why?

Chicagoland CareerPathways was created to address the inequity in post-secondary planning tools available to young people and their guides. There are many tools available that focus on college, but no tools highlighting fields that require an Associate's Degree or less as an on-ramp to employment.

Chicagoland CareerPathways - Why?

Chicagoland CareerPathways was created to address the information and access gap surrounding training programs that do not require a Bachelor's degree as an on-ramp to employment. Ensuring people are educated about and have access to high-quality options is of paramount importance both from an equity and economic standpoint.

Approximately two-thirds of Chicago Public School graduates enroll in a two or four-year college and 50% complete, leaving one-third of CPS graduates that do not matriculate to college and 50% who matriculated but did not complete.

Chicago has approximately 50,000 Opportunity Youth (16-24-year-olds that are out of school and out of work).

The average unemployment rate for Chicago hovers around 7.7% (now above 13% due to COVID) and pre-pandemic 322,803 of the 550,000 Chicagoans living in poverty were between the working ages of 18-64 years old.

Middle-skill occupations, those that require more than a high school diploma or GED but less than a bachelor's degree, represent 53% of Illinois jobs, yet only 42% of workers are trained for those occupations.

Chicagoland CareerPathways Fast Facts

The directory boasts **190 programs** provided by over **100 different providers** in the Chicagoland area. Of the programs currently active on the site, approximately **56% are self-identified as free of cost and 28% are paid opportunities**, lowering inhibitory barriers to participation. **Three-quarters of active programs offer credentials to participants upon completion**, unlocking the door to career advancement through innovative educational models. Already, Chicagoland CareerPathways has served over **5,000 users**, and with our powerful search tools, **monthly Hot Jobs list**, and deepening community engagement, we can only expect that number to grow.

Chicagoland CareerPathways - Who?

Chicagoland CareerPathways is a resource for young people, their guides, and unemployed / underemployed people who are looking for low barrier options to high quality career fields.

- High School Seniors who feel that college is not right or not right now for them.
- Young people interested in specific fields such as the trades.
- People who do not have enough money to go to a four year program despite any financial assistance they receive to do so.
- Young adults who have been court involved and a record excludes them from college.
- People who want a better understanding of various career pathways.

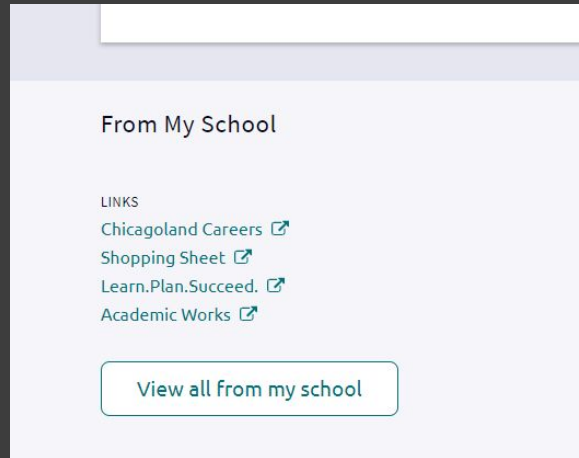
Chicagoland CareerPathways - Who?

The Directory was a massive collaboration between funders, youth serving orgs, CPS, employers, state organizations, certification organizations, CCC, and many others to address the need for young people and their guides to have as much information as possible to plan for their futures while addressing the skills gap in Chicagoland.



Chicagoland CareerPathways - How

CPS students can access the directory through a link on their Naviance homepage.



<https://www.careerpathways.net/>

[Navigation Video](#)

Chicagoland CareerPathways - How

- Pull up careerpathways.net on your phone/ laptop / iPad
- [Choose a scenario from this sheet](#)
- Navigate the directory according to your scenario

Be ready to share out!

Chicagoland CareerPathways - Feedback & Questions

- What did you like about the directory?
- What would you change or add?
- What questions do you still have?

Please share out or add your responses to the chat.

Chicagoland CareerPathways - What's Next?

We are

- Updating and maintaining the site
- Constantly adding new programs
- Gathering feedback and responding to need
- Enhancing features and adding components according to feedback
- Ensuring Equitable and Anti-racist practices

Chicagoland CareerPathways - Connect

Stay connected and be the first to know about updates by:

- Following us on LinkedIn at Chicagoland CareerPathways
- Joining our [mailing list through the website](#) - we won't spam you!
- Joining our monthly user events with program providers.
- Have our partners present to your students.

Reach out to January Miller at jmiller@embarcchicago.org with questions / comments / feedback.

Chicagoland CareerPathways - Questions?

