

# Pathways to Success: Advancing Equity, Empowerment, and Economic Prosperity in Chicagoland

*Photo courtesy of Inspiration Corporation*

In this exclusive two-part event, six **Progressive Pathway Programs** will present to you **their work and its impact**. Each organization offers you an opportunity to **partner in their mission** and **build a brighter future for all Chicagoans**.

## What are Progressive Pathways?

Progressive Pathway Programs **combine learning and work opportunities** to gain career advancement outside of, in addition to, or preceding the four-year degree route. They help foster **seamless transitions from secondary to post-secondary programs, and from post-secondary programs to lifelong career success**. A robust Progressive Pathway ecosystem can serve as a key driver of **equity, empowerment, and economic prosperity** in our region.

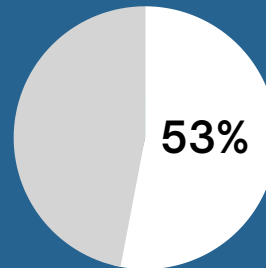
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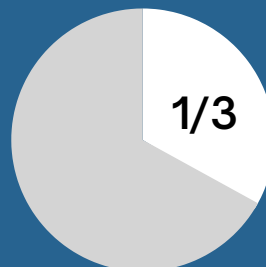
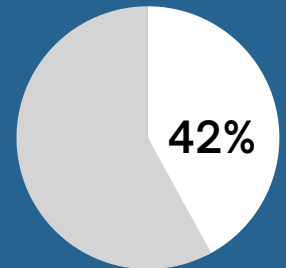
## Why Progressive Pathways?



53% of Illinois jobs require less than a bachelor's degree and more than a high school education.

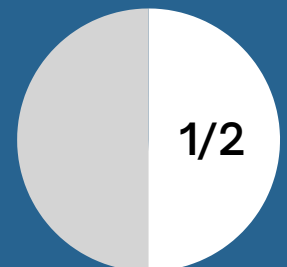
**Only 42% of workers are trained for these jobs.**

Statistic courtesy of National Skills Coalition



One-third of Chicago Public School graduates do not enroll in college, while half of those who do enroll do not complete their degree. **Progressive Pathways give these students another option.**

Statistic courtesy of UChicago Consortium on School Research



# Opportunities for Impact

For those who wish to help build, expand, and uplift Progressive Pathway Programs and the work that they do, there are many opportunities to contribute. Here, we present six programs that CWFA believes to be **exemplars of their fields and champions of equity, empowerment, and economic prosperity for the Chicagoland community.**

## YearUp Chicago

- Essential **training, skill development,** and industry-recognized **credentials** to help **young adults** secure well-paying jobs
- **76%** of 2020 graduates were employed or enrolled in school **within 4 months of graduation,** and employed graduates earned an average starting wage of **\$20.67 per hour**
- Seeking support to provide **280 young adults** with the foundation, training, and experience needed to **continue their education and launch successful careers**

Contact Davina Martin at [dmartin01@yearup.org](mailto:dmartin01@yearup.org)

## HANA Center

- **Digital literacy ESL classes** with technology **certification** and apprenticeships for **unemployed Korean American immigrant women** in Chicago's Northwest suburbs
- An estimated **50%** of program participants obtain **employment** or enroll in continued education **within 6 months of graduation**
- Seeking support to provide **paid apprenticeships** that will lead to **permanent placements** in **healthcare administration** and related fields

Contact Jennifer Brown at [jbrown@hanacenter.org](mailto:jbrown@hanacenter.org)

## National Able Network

- Helps break down systemic injustices and support equity in the workplace by **empowering people through employment**
- IT Career Lab program helps job seekers **launch new careers in technology,** boasting a **90%** completion rate and average starting wage of **\$18.37 per hour** for program graduates
- Seeking support for **career coaching, training, certification,** and **placement** of program graduates

Contact Matthew Weis at [mweis@nationalable.org](mailto:mweis@nationalable.org)

## Skills for Chicagoland's Future

- **Employer-driven** program providing unemployed young adults entry to long-term careers through **experience, education,** and **supportive services**
- Skills has placed **164** individuals into career pathways across **multiple industries,** meeting retention rates far above industry and employer standards
- Seeking support for **stipends, supportive services, mentoring, coaching,** and **expansion** aligned with demand, e.g. health care pathways

Contact Tanille Smith at [tsmith@skillsforchicagoland.com](mailto:tsmith@skillsforchicagoland.com)

## Inspiration Corporation

- **Supportive services** and **job training** in the **culinary industry,** one of few career paths open to people with multiple barriers to employment
- Approximately **85%** of graduates who complete a transitional job are placed in **unsubsidized employment**
- Seeking support for **garden supplies** for our production garden in East Garfield Park, which provides **learning opportunities** for job training, and produce for **emergency free meals**

Contact Evan Cauble-Johnson at [ejohnson@inspirationcorp.org](mailto:ejohnson@inspirationcorp.org)

## Per Scholas

- **Tuition-free training,** professional development, and robust employer connections for individuals **traditionally underrepresented in the tech industry**
- **85% of learners graduate,** and **80%** of graduates are **placed within one year** of program completion
- Seeking support for **recruitment, training,** and **direct placement** costs for individuals interested in technology and are **seeking a better career path**

Contact Andi Drileck at [adrileck@perscholas.org](mailto:adrileck@perscholas.org)



The Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance (CWFA) is the region's major convener of the philanthropic community interested in creating, sustaining, and retaining a successful, equitable workforce. For more on our work, visit our website at [ChicagoWorkforceFunders.org](http://ChicagoWorkforceFunders.org) or reach out to Adrian Esquivel via email at [aesquivel@cct.org](mailto:aesquivel@cct.org).