

# Opportunity Works

Sector-driven internships for young adults in suburban Cook County

provided by the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership

More than 33,000 young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 are disconnected from both work and school in suburban Cook County. At the same time, many employers report a shortage of skilled workers.



**Opportunity Works** places young adults in subsidized internships, exposes them to viable careers, expands their skill sets and connects them to the training and resources they need to achieve long-term employment in growing industries.

This program will target southern and western suburbs, but will be open to all of suburban Cook County, offering sector-specific training in these fields:



**Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics**



**Information Technology**



**Manufacturing**

Contact The Partnership at (312) 603-7092 or [opportunityworks@workforceboard.org](mailto:opportunityworks@workforceboard.org) to learn more about the program.

# CAREER LAUNCH

Opportunity Youth Employment Program

provided by the Justice Advisory Council

**Career Launch**, administered by the Cook County Justice Advisory Council, is a new opportunity youth employment program available to young people ages 16–24 who are disengaged from work or school. The program is open to residents of Austin, Back of the Yards, and South Shore, as well as the South Suburbs of Cook County, and will serve approximately 200 young adults.



The program features:

- Job Readiness and Career Exploration
- Job Retention Support
- Job Placement
- Sector-Specific Training
- Wraparound Services

All training and exploration includes a stipend, and specific programs within **Career Launch** last from six weeks to three months, beginning by July 1st.

In this first year of the program, we are enrolling about 200 participants, and hope to grow participation in the coming years. We understand that youth often have involvement with the criminal justice system, and that is in no way a barrier to participation in this program.

Contact the Justice Advisory Council at (312) 603-1133 to learn more about the program or visit [cookcountyil.gov/service/career-launch](http://cookcountyil.gov/service/career-launch).

# Conservation Corps

provided by the Forest Preserves

**Conservation Corps** programs provide paid, hands-on conservation experiences to participants from across Cook County's diverse communities. The Forest Preserves mobilize participants to heal and nurture the land. 287 participants engaged in 2016.



Summer youth programs last 4 to 6 weeks and are open to residents aged 14 to 19. They include job readiness training, physically active service work, and nature based recreation. Transportation and service clothing are also provided.



**Conservation Corps** also provides adult employment programs focusing on technical skills and certifications to pursue a career in conservation. Programs last from 10 weeks to 12 months and range from part- to full-time, resulting in 70–90% job placement post program.



Contact Alice Brandon at (708) 906-3907 to learn more about Conservation Corps or visit [fpdcc.com](http://fpdcc.com).



## Looking for a Summer Job?

Apply to one of our employment programs!

When you apply to our programs, look forward to benefiting from these services, in addition to paid work:

**Career Pathway Exposure**

**Mentorship**

**High-School Reconnection**

**Occupational Training**

**Leadership Development**

**Post-Program Referrals**



Research has shown that jobs programs and workforce supports for young adults are effective in encouraging further education, expanding future career opportunities, and reducing violence in our communities.

- A recent UChicago CrimeLab study has shown that One Summer Chicago Plus participants were 43% less likely to be arrested for violent crime
- Having a job as a teenager increases one's lifetime earning potential
- Participating in employment and training programs that include career exploration activities and supportive services decrease the likelihood of experiencing long-term unemployment

Visit [www.cookcountyil.gov/service/cook-county-connects](http://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/cook-county-connects) for more information.



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# COOK COUNTY CONNECTS



Employment, mentorship, and training opportunities for young adults ages 16 to 24