

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Securing Good Paying Jobs in Kane, Kendall & DeKalb Counties

As unemployment continues to be an issue for residents of Kane, Kendall and DeKalb counties, the River Valley Workforce Investment Board (RVWIB) has taken on the challenge of securing jobs in our area, for now and the future.

Focused on ensuring that businesses can compete in a global marketplace by helping them attain a highly qualified workforce, the RVWIB is committed to enhancing our local economy. Recently, the RVWIB launched its *Incumbent Worker Training Grant Program (IWT)*, a workforce training program designed to protect the jobs of current employees while at the same time growing jobs that will be needed in the long term. The IWT Grant Program is targeted at industries that will be the job providers of the future and whose current employees need their skills upgraded to be able to compete in a changing market. Those industries include:

- Healthcare
- Manufacturing
- Information Technology
- Agri-Business
- Transportation, Warehousing & Logistics
- Hospitality & Retail
- Finance & Insurance
- “Green” focused businesses

The training provided to participants is designed to improve skills so that employees can meet the needs of the current and future job market. The RVWIB received nearly \$500,000 in federal stimulus dollars to be used for enhancing skills of the current workforce.

Workforce Investment Boards were created under a 1998 federal law called the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), mandated to create a workforce development system that meets the needs of employers for qualified workers and increases employment opportunities for residents. **The River Valley Workforce Investment Board** plays a key role in the economic development of Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties. Bringing together a myriad of employment, training and educational services, the Board provides a comprehensive and easily accessed system that supports the development of a skilled, well-qualified workforce. Through its network and its oversight functions, the Board works to streamline access for businesses to a qualified pool of job applicants. Additionally, the Board oversees the workforce system that provides resources and services to help recruit, train and retain a skilled workforce. The system also provides a single source for job-seekers to learn about and utilize a broad range of employment, education and related services.

Employers in Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties interested in the *Incumbent Worker Training Grant Program* should contact the River Valley Workforce Investment Board at 630-859-9923, ext. 2 or email info@rivervalleywib.org.

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