



Business Services



Tory Davis- Regional Business Services Manager (LWIA 4, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21)

Tory.Davis@Illinois.gov

Chris Burton- Local Veteran Employment Representative (LWIA 4, 15)

Christopher.Burton@Illinois.gov

Sheila Cutright- Local Veteran Employment Representative (LWIA 19, 20, 21)

Sheila.Cutright@Illinois.gov

Mark Gastmann- Local Veteran Employment Representative (LWIA 4, 13)

Mark.Gastmann@Illinois.gov

Steve Shepherd- Local Veteran Employment Representative (LWIA 14)

Steve.Shepherd@Illinois.gov

Thom Pennell- Business Services Coordinator (LWIA 15)

Thomas.Pennell@Illinois.gov

Jane Verplaetse- Business Services Coordinator (LWIA 13)

Jane.Verplaetse@Illinois.gov

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:

Labor Market Information IDES encourages economic growth and stability in Illinois by analyzing and disseminating essential Labor Market Information. [LMI](#)

WorkShare IL is a voluntary program that provides employers facing a decline in business with an alternative to layoffs. The program allows an employer to reduce the number of hours worked in any unit of their business avoiding permanent layoffs. Employers maintain a trained workforce during temporary periods of business downturn. Employers avoid turnover costs associated with hiring and training new employees. [WorkShare IL](#)

IllinoisJoblink.com is a robust, dynamic, and comprehensive, web-based workforce development system for job seekers, employers, training providers and workforce professionals with real-time data. Employers can post open positions and review resumes of registered job seekers. [IllinoisJobLink.com](#)

The Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) program provides federal funding to hire dedicated staff to provide individualized career and training-related services to veterans and eligible persons with significant barriers to employment and to assist employers fill their workforce needs with job-seeking veterans. [JVSG](#)

A **hiring event** leverages IDES' innovative pre-registration and outreach efforts. Business service team works with Workforce partners and local municipalities to find ideal locations for events, advertise across multiple platforms and utilize IllinoisJobLink.com to access thousands of jobseekers in the region.

Fidelity Bonding is a business insurance policy that protects employers against employee dishonesty, theft or embezzlement. A fidelity bond is no-cost insurance coverage from \$5,000 up to \$25,000 that enables employers to hire job applicants considered to be "at risk" due to their past life experiences. [Fidelity Bonding](#)

WOTC (Work Opportunity Tax Credit) is a Federal tax credit available to employers who hire and retain veterans and/or individuals from other target groups with significant barriers to employment. Taxes range from \$1,200 up to \$9,600. [WOTC](#)

SkillBridge is an opportunity for active-duty service member to gain valuable civilian work experience through specific industry training, apprenticeships, or internships during the last 180 days of service. SkillBridge is an opportunity to access and leverage the world's most highly trained and motivated workforce at no cost. Service members participating in SkillBridge receive their military compensation and benefits, and industry partners provide the training and work. [SkillBridge](#)