



Announced by City of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Cook County Board of Commissioners President Toni Preckwinkle in September 2012, *Skills for Chicagoland's Future* is the first city/county employment initiative in the U.S. and serves as a regional adaptation of the national Skills for America's Future.

A public/private partnership, *Skills for Chicagoland's Future* unites City of Chicago and Cook County employers, job seekers, workforce development partners and educational institutions in a coordinated effort to jumpstart business growth, put local residents back to work and stimulate our region's economy.

*Skills for Chicagoland's Future* represents a paradigm shift in Chicago and Cook County's workforce development system that addresses the workforce skills gap in a real and tangible way. Essentially, we take the guesswork out of job training and employment numbers. Rather than training people in a skill and hoping they find a job that uses the skill, unemployed job seekers are being equipped with the skills that employers need now and in the near future. By identifying immediate hiring needs up front, Skills for Chicagoland's Future significantly increases the likelihood of job seekers obtaining an actual position because they will be connected with an employer that has made a commitment to hire and will train them for their specific employment needs.

*Skills for Chicagoland's Future* aims to:

- Close the skills gap in the Chicagoland area
- Efficiently respond to both immediate and long-term hiring needs
- Decrease the number of unfilled jobs
- Reduce the time to fill job openings for employers
- Foster collaboration among business, educational, governmental and community organizations

### **How Does it Work?**

*Skills for Chicagoland's Future* supports the growth of local employers by:

- ✓ Sourcing and matching unemployed job seekers with employers that have immediate hiring needs
- ✓ Coordinating customized training solutions for employers when skills-ready candidates don't exist, including identifying quality education/training partners and leveraging federal workforce development funds
- ✓ Creating employer-educator partnerships to develop long-term skill solutions to the workforce skills gap
- ✓ Collecting and disseminating data about the current workforce needs of employers to inform strategies for the broader workforce development system

SCF services are currently provided at no cost to either employers or unemployed job seekers.

### **How Do We Measure Success?**

The success of *Skills for Chicagoland's Future* will be measured by year-over-year improvement in jumpstarting business growth, putting Chicago and Cook County residents back to work and stimulating our region's economy. Within a year of receiving training funding, *Skills for Chicagoland's Future* aims to fill 2,000 job openings with unemployed Cook County job seekers, serve 85 - 100 business clients, and direct 8% - 10% of WIA training funding to businesses via On-the-Job Training and Customized Training.

*Skills for Chicagoland's Future* benefits from strong business relationships and commitments from various local businesses - including Allscripts, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Seaton Corp and SPR Companies - and collaboration with the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership. The *Skills for Chicagoland's Future* Board of Directors, led by Penny Pritzker, is comprised of CEOs and CHROs who support the organization in fulfilling its three-year growth plan to expand the number and type of people served from 600 per year to a goal of 6,000 per year in 2015.