

Commonly Asked Questions

1) What is WIOA Illinois Program?

The WIOA Illinois program is the state's implementation of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), a system that integrates federally funded job training programs to provide workers with services to find and train for new careers. WIOA provides funding for eligible individuals to receive training and access services to improve skills and find employment in high-demand fields.

2) What employment services does the Northern District of Illinois offer?

- *The Workforce Development (WFD) Program offers Makin' It Work, a three-and-a-half-day cognitive job training program that helps participants learn how to maintain employment through different skills. Makin' It Work facilitators are probation officers who volunteer their time. Upon completion of the program, participants will identify employment based on their interests, create a professional resume, practice discussing their criminal history during a mock interview, and get advice on how to dress for success.*
- *The Helpful Hanger is situated in the probation office, where we offer individuals under supervision professional work clothing.*
- *Another way the WFD team helps prepare you for work is by offering resume writing and job interview practice.*
- *The WFD team partners with Chase Bank to offer free financial literacy workshops.*
- *The WFD team provides an in-district computer literacy program to help persons under supervision create professional email addresses, resumes, complete job and training applications, and learn Microsoft Office programs.*

3) Will Probation pay for my CDLs?

It is possible. Your probation officer will initially refer you to community agencies. If no resources are accessible, the probation officer will consult with their supervisor to evaluate whether second-chance funding is a viable option.

4) How often is the Makin' It Work Training Program? When is the next one?

Quarterly. The next one is scheduled for November 17th.

5) Can I have my own business while on supervised release?

Discuss with your probation officer. Self-employment is case-by-case, and you will need to provide verification of your business.

6) Do you have a list of agencies that will hire felons?

Yes. We have a handout with a list of agencies.

7) I want to return to school. How do I go about doing that?

WFD team partners with Endeleo Institute to assist persons under supervision with pursuing a GED or post-secondary education.