



# The Calumet Green Manufacturing Partnership

## South Suburban Cook County and the south side of Chicago

### The problem

High unemployment rates in the south suburbs and south side of Chicago persist while manufacturing companies struggle to find skilled employees. In order to take advantage of the economic benefits manufacturing companies create, and to address the “skills-mismatch” problem, numerous stakeholders partnered to create innovative strategies that support a thriving green manufacturing economy. Strategic and targeted investments and strong partnerships are required to address the skills gap between the workforce and employers. This need is especially true in emerging and innovative industries, such as green manufacturing.

As GO TO 2040 states, a recent analysis of the Illinois economy showed that nearly half of the jobs in the state require some post-secondary education, but less than a four-year education. These jobs, often referred to as middle-skill jobs, are expected to grow and in order to support a thriving economy. The region’s workforce must match the demands of employers; this requires strong linkages between industry and training providers, which is what the Calumet Green Manufacturing Partnership (CGMP) aims to achieve.

### The solution

Several strategies are being put into place to address the skills-mismatch problem and build a workforce that will fuel the green manufacturing industry, including:

- Local colleges including Richard J. Daley College, Prairie State College, and South Suburban College are expanding manufacturing training programs by adding Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC) and National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) credentialing.
- Bridge programs provide contextualized training to assist lower-skilled individuals in upgrading their skills to access manufacturing training courses.
- Local manufacturers are informing training providers of the needed labor skills and competencies so the programs and curricula reflect their needs.
- Recruitment, assessment and screening for all Colleges trainings provided by one local workforce development organization, OAI, Inc. who is also working with employers to ensure the right match between their hiring needs and students enrolled in the program.

The CGMP project receives 65% percent of its \$1.3 million funding through a United States Department of Labor Green Jobs Innovation Fund grant (GJIF) made through Jobs for the Future.

### Overview

The Calumet Green Manufacturing Partnership (CGMP) is a collaborative effort focused on supporting and enhancing the manufacturing industry in South Suburban Cook County and the south side of Chicago. By building partnerships between employers, the public workforce system, and training providers, the CGMP develops the skills of the local workforce to meet the labor needs of local manufacturing companies, with an emphasis on green skills, industries and manufacturing practices.

### CMAP Resources

- [GO TO 2040 Human Capital Chapter](#)
- [Green Jobs Strategy Paper](#)
- [Economic Development Incentives Strategy Paper](#)

### GO TO 2040 Recommendation: Human Capital-

*Improve education & workforce development*



### For more information

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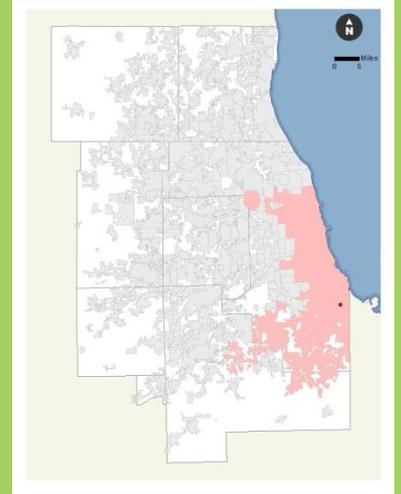
## Outcomes

In addition to strengthening existing partnerships and improving alignment between education, workforce development, and economic development opportunities, the CGMP will train 115 workers in Computer Numeric Control (CNC) machining, with at least 100 receiving a degree, certificate, or other credential and 93 entering or advancing in training-related employment by July 2014.

## Lessons learned

Originally, the CGMP expected to create an employer advisory council as a vehicle for employer engagement. However, many manufacturers already participate in trade organizations and college advisory committees. To avoid duplicating efforts, the CGMP is instead providing employers with individualized assistance, based on their specific hiring and incumbent worker training needs. This includes developing a catalogue of all local manufacturing training programs and providing access to available tax credits and training resources. In return, participating employers can support the CGMP's training programs through class presentations, mock interviews, participation in career fairs with program graduates and by providing feedback on the skills of program graduates that they hire.

## Location Map:



## Additional Resources

- [Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation](#)
- [Chicago Southland's Green TIME Zone](#)
- [OAI, Inc.](#)
- [Richard J. Daley College](#)
- [Prairie State College](#)
- [South Suburban College](#)
- [Chicago Jobs Council](#)
- [Jobs for the Future Greenways](#)

Contact Lindsay Banks ([lbanks@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:lbanks@cmap.illinois.gov)) to submit a case study.